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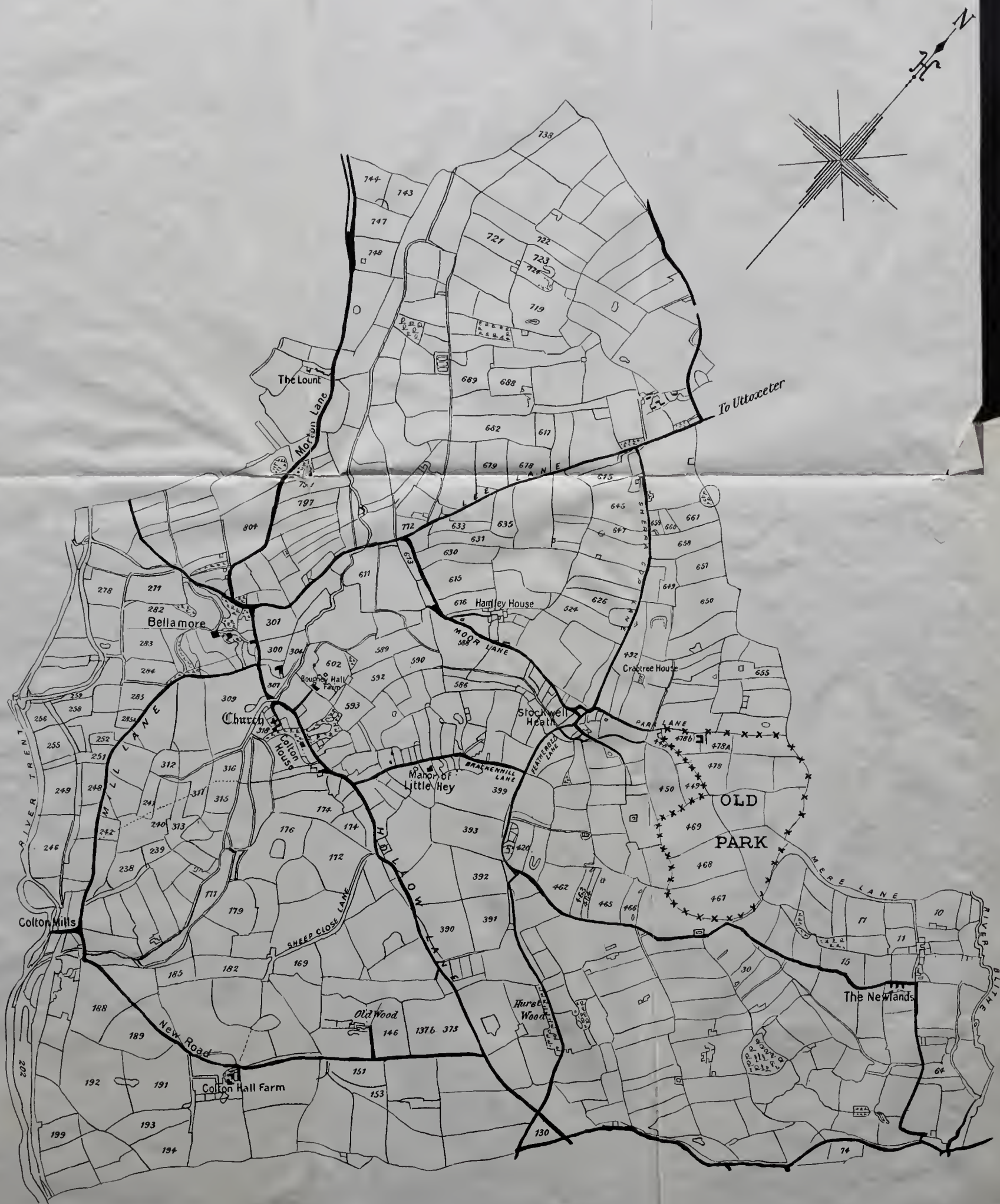
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COLTON PARISH, 1845 A.D.





Some Account of  
Colton  
and of the  
De Wasteneys Family,

BY  
THE RECTOR OF COLTON.

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TO ALL WHO ARE INTERESTED IN THE PARISH OF COLTON,  
STAFFORDSHIRE,  
THIS ATTEMPT TO THROW LIGHT ON ITS HISTORY IS INSCRIBED.

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“Then muste we to bookes that we find  
Through which that oldē thinges be in mind.”  
“I spake to give credence  
To old stories, and do them reverence.”  
*(Poem by Geoffrey Chaucer.)*

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BIRMINGHAM:  
HUDSON AND SON, EDMUND STREET.  
1897.

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*The writer gladly embraces this opportunity of recording his gratitude to the late Rev. R. W. Eyton, and to Major-Genrl. the Honble. George Wrottesley, for their incomparable work upon the Staffordshire Public Records ; to the Right Rev. Bishop Hobhouse ; to the late Francis Whitgreave, Esq., of Burton Manor ; to the late Mr. T. J. de Mazzinghi, of the Sult Library ; to Mr. T. H. Jeayes, of the British Museum ; and others who have kindly assisted him.*

*Especially to Frederic Bonney, Esq., of Colton House ; and to the Rev. Charles F. Lowry Barnwell, Vicar of Stramshall, for the series of photographs they have taken to illustrate this Account of Colton.*

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## The Names of Fields Numbered in the Map.

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10	Higg's Field	255	Hay (Eye) Meadow
11	Over Croft	256	Trent Meadow
15	Itchen Hill	258	Lower Trent Field
17	Nether Field	259	Gosmore Ends
30	Wagstaff	277	Ludgett
64	Sheens	278	Crane Field
74	Part of Goldsworth	282	Little Trent Field
130	Lower Hadley	283	Great Trent Field
137	Big Wood	284	Little Trent Field
146	Little Wood	285	Lesser Trent Field
151	Snail Horn	285A	Lesser Trent Field
153	Snail Horn Meadow	300	Chapel Yard
169	Little Park	301	Coney Greave
172	Birchen Close	304	Chapel Yard Meadow
174	Town Field and Martlins	307	Chapel Yard Meadow
176	The Springs (Caldwell)	309	Bear Croft
177	Mare Park	311	Sleetings
179	East Park Meadow	312	Sleetings
182	Big Dog Kennel Meadow	313	War Moor Meadow
185	Little Dog Kennel Meadow	315	Big Holme
188	Big Park	316	Little Holme
189	Big Park	318	Castle Croft
191	Upper Park	390	Lawn Wood
192	Hilly Park	391	Longley Wood
193	Little Park	392	Finner's Hill
194	Big Heames, Hern's, Leasow	393	Carp Pit Wood
199	Long Hurst Meadow	399	Blackwell Wood
201	Long Hurst Meadow	420	Phinner's Hill
202	Long Hurst Meadow	448	Park Meadow
238	Sleetings	449	Little Park
239	Upper Sleetings	450	Great Park
240	Sleetings	462	Sentaff Leasow
241	Sleetings	463	Sentaff
242	Stockings	464	Sentaff
246	Hay (Ey) Meadow	465	Sentaff
248	Part of Stockings	466	Sentaff Piece
249	Part of Ey Meadow	467	Near Wood
251	Ey Meadow Gap	468	Middle Wood
252	Ey Meadow Gap	469	Far Wood

478	Part of the Park	650	Great Fulwell
478 <sub>A</sub>	Part of the Park	655	Ashton Croft
478 <sub>B</sub>	Part of the Park	657	Great Fulwell
492	Long Hamley	658	Lower Fulwell
586	Moor Leys	659	Part of Fulwell
588	Godfrey's Moor	660	Part of Fulwell
589	Big Crow Moor	661	Fulwell
590	Upper Moor Meadow	677	Little Mill Ditch
592	Beggarley Moor	678	Mill Ditch Meadow
593	Little Crow Moor	679	Part of Mill Ditch
624	Little Sherra Cop	682	Great Mill Ditch
602	Moor Leys and Oak Croft	688	Thick Greave
611	Almond's Meadow	689	Mill Ditch
613	Hamley Heath	719	Wilderley Croft
615	Big Hamley	721	Flint's Wilderley
616	Little Hamley	722	Long Wilderley
624	Little Sherra Cop and Bradshaw's Leasow	723	Penny Flat
626	Big Sherry Cop	724	Wilderley Hall
630	Long Hamley	738	Upper Friar's Meadow
631	Far Hamley	743	Roger Hayes Meadow
633	Lower Hamley	744	Big Roger Hayes
635	Upper Hamley	747	Middle Roger Hayes
646	Hunger Hill	748	Far Roger Hayes
646	Cresswell and Hunger Hill	772	Hamley Heath
647	Child's Oak	797	Gilded Pit
649	Little Fulwell	798	Willmoor Field Leasow
		804	Wilmoor Field

## List of Photographs.

- Walter, First Lord Aston, &c.  
Colton Bridge, looking East.  
Colton Bridge, looking West.  
Colton House, from the North.  
Colton House, from the South.  
\*Old Bellamore, from the North-East.  
\*Old Bellamore, from the North-West.  
Bellamour Hall, from the South.  
Bellamour Lodge, from the South-East.  
Rectory, from the North.  
Rectory, from the South.  
The Hollow Lane  
The Long Stile (in snow).  
Colton Church, from the South.  
Colton Church, from the East.  
\*Colton Church, interior.

[\* These three only are from negatives taken by the Rev. C. F. L. Barnwell.]

## List of Woodcuts.

- Old Manor House, Little Hay.  
Chimneys of the same Manor House.  
The Old Park Fence.  
Colton Church, South and East, before restoration.  
Colton Church Old Font.  
Frescoes—"Expulsion of Adam and Eve."  
"Salutation of Elizabeth."  
"St. Nicholas."  
"Three Maidens rescued by St. Nicholas."  
Coats of Arms of the Mavesyns.  
the Wasteneyes.  
Anselm le Mareschal.  
the Gresleys.  
the Astons.  
the Blounts.

## Lithographs.

- Old Bellamore and Modern Bellamour, 1840 A.D.  
Plan of the former Rectory, Colton.  
Map of Colton Parish.



## Corrections.

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### PAGE

- 11 The note on Gawley (Gailey) refers to the Charter of Renner de Wolseley, and should have been inserted on page 196.
- 52 For "deprived *John* de Wastineys " read deprived *William* de Wastineys.
- 175 For "aide-de-camp of Field Marshall " read aide-de-camp of *the late* Field Marshall.
- 176 For "land hired " read land *leased*.
- 178 For "Hamley sold " read Hamley *was* sold.
- 183 For "in 1811 " read *1881*.
- 192 For "supra dictam " read *supra-dictam*.
- 198 The references to Rector John Russhebury should have been in a foot-note.
- 203 For Rector of *Welford* " read of *Weeford*.
- 213 For "Xtopher Badeley " read *Bradbury*? and for "John Foste " read *Tawsche*.
- 292 Omit "*Sir Charles Wolseley's charters*."
- 312 For "1275 A.D." read *1295* A.D.





*Colton Church from the Bridge.*



*Bridge, looking West.*



*SOME ACCOUNT OF*  
**COLTON**  
*AND OF THE*  
**DE WASTENEYS FAMILY.**

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THE history of the Parish of Colton, which first appeared in 1881, A.D., is now to be reprinted in a fuller, and, it is hoped, more accurate form, owing to the valuable series of Staffordshire records published by the "William Salt" Archæological Society; and to the opportunities for further research gained in the last sixteen years; which have corrected many errors, and brought to light much that relates generally to Colton, and to the De Wasteney family in particular.

If, especially in its earlier stage, the account is chiefly taken up with details of some interest perhaps to Colton people, but of little or no importance to their neighbours, it must be pleaded that few public events can be connected with a country village, particularly when it stands retired from a main road, and when, as in the present instance, it

has not been the home of any one historical family, like Ferrars of Charteley, or Talbot of Ingestre, but has passed into the hands of several knightly houses, possessing other and larger estates elsewhere, and having sometimes little connection with the place—save that of property. The deeds given in the appendix, and now considerably augmented, may be of use to anyone who shall undertake to write a complete history of the county; if so, they may be taken as an excuse for re-printing the present work.

The earliest mention of Colton is to be found, as might be expected, in the survey of William the Conqueror. “The King’s Commissioners in the year 1085, visited the greater part of his new dominions, summoning before them the sheriff, the chief landowners, the representatives of the hundreds, with the priest, the reeve, and six villeins from the townships of every shire, that they might describe on oath the condition of the land, the name of each manor, or township, its present and former holders, its extent in hides, the number of ploughs which it employed, the name of the homagers, the villeins, cotters and serfs, how many free-men, how many soke-men, the extent of wood, meadow, and pasture, the mills and fisheries, if any, the increase or decrease since the time of King Edward the Confessor, together with the value of each holding.” (“Ely Domesday,” quoted by Stubbs). On all questions of rating and the tenure of lands, their report became the recognised

authority, and was styled "Domesday" book, as being the register for final appeal, by which sentence and judgment might be given in disputed cases.

Colton is entered *twice* in the Staffordshire Domesday; a fact which entirely escaped the notice of Erdeswick and Walter Chetwynd, who have recognised only the de Stafford Manor. In the earliest publication of these notes (v. outline, "Trent Valley" Parish Magazine), it was suggested that two lordships might be included in Colton; for manors were not necessarily co-extensive with parishes; and reasons were afterwards given in favour of recognising both, which need not be repeated here, but it was left uncertain; and the credit of deciding the question rests with Mr. Eyton and General Wrottesley; as will appear, when we consider the Colton of 1166, A.D., in their valuable notes on the "Liber Niger" Baronies of Fitz-Alan and de Stafford.

Beginning with the year 1086 A.D., the Staffordshire Domesday tells us, that—in the days of Edward the Confessor—Almund, a free-man, held a manor in Coltone, which had passed at the date of the survey into the hands of a Norman\* lord named Azeline, or Asselin, a man of some consequence, holding no less than four manors in Pirehill hundred; Cote, Coltone, Ridware, and Locksley; under the great Baron Roger de Mont-

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\* More correctly "a Francigenus."

gomery, who led the centre of William's army at the battle of Hastings, and was subsequently created Earl of Shrewsbury and Arundel. Azeline's tenure is thought to have been by castle guard against the Welsh. The Earl was 'the chief lord of those marches of Wales, and it is certain that the Mavesyns, Asselin's descendants, held land in Colton shortly afterwards by that tenure.

Under the schedule of the de Stafford fees, we find another manor, called by the name of "Coltune," which had formerly belonged to the free men, Odo and Uluric, but was now held, of Robert de Stafford, by one Geoffrey [Goisfrid].

Asselin's Colton Manor, subsequently called Marshall's and Griffyn's Manor, was estimated at one Hide. There were four plough gangs of arable land. In the demesne two teams were working with four serfs, while fourteen villani,\* or husbandmen of the village, and the Priest, had three teams cultivating the remainder. There was a wood of about †720 acres in extent, the whole was valued at

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\*"Villeins were the settled cultivators of the land, whose services were sold with it, for they were not suffered to leave their homes. They possessed, however, certain rights, having a voice in the management of their village and sending representatives to the moots of the hundred and the shire, and being free from the dangers of military service. Under a fairly good lord their position was by no means the worst."—*Vide* Stubb's C, History.

The Leuga or League = 12 furlongs, or quarentines.

† Domesday measurements are always difficult to estimate, and generally little to be trusted; but taking Mr. Eyton's view of



40s. Together with this manor the survey mentions a separate half hide, which pertained to Coltone, held in the Confessor's time by Almar, a Saxon; Mr. Eyton, commenting on the Staffordshire Domesday, and not knowing the locality, held this to be obsolete; but he was mistaken, for it is unquestionably the so-called manor of "Little Hay," which then, as now, extended into the adjoining parish of Mavesyn Ridware, likewise allotted to Asselin; although the dwelling house itself was in Colton, and the larger portion of the manor—(vide the last perambulation of the boundary given in the appendix). The entry, in fact, only confirms the accuracy of the Norman survey. We notice that no mill is mentioned on Asselin's estate.

Geoffrey's Manor represented the other portion of Colton; and can still be clearly traced, being identical with the "*untitheable*" land. Colton Hall farm preserves the name—and, practically, the site—of the Lord's house. Here the arable land amounted to six plough-gangs; in the demesne was a single working team, while ten "villani," and one serf, employed three other teams—leaving the working power deficient by two teams. There was a water-mill, valued at 1s. yearly, occupying the site of the present mill, on the river Trent, adjoining the

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the modern acre average of the "*Staffordshire Domesday hide*" as 1,457 acres, or thereabouts, we have Asser's Manor = 1,457 acres; Almar's half hide = 728 acres; Geoffrey's Manor = 1,457 acres.—Total, 3,642 acres; which is very near the acreage of Colton Parish.

station. Sixteen acres of (enclosed ?) meadow, and a wood, one league long by three quarentines wide (about †360 acres)—covering, we conclude, the site of the “Ashleyhay,” “Morehay,” “Old,” and “Hurst” Woods, and possibly extending to the “Old” Park Woods.

Evidently, Asselin’s Manor was in the better case of the two (as we might expect from his residence being in the immediate neighbourhood<sup>1</sup>. It had one team in excess of the estimated arable land; with a large proportion of labourers, say one to (c) 100 acres of actual surface; while in Geoffrey’s Manor we noticed a deficiency of working power by two teams; and when we deduct the separate half hide\* of “Little Hay” from Asselin’s estate, a much smaller proportion of men to the area. Subsequently, Asselin’s Manor possessed a mill at Hamley, but with so little water-power, that it could never have been efficient, which accounted for the erection of a windmill (c. Ric. 2 ?) at Bellamour end (v. Gresley deed, and Field names). The earliest mention of the Hamley Mill is circa. 1290 A.D., when the mill ditch is referred to.

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\* The hide did not represent the acreage but the rateable value of the land. Perhaps the liability to provide a man at arms (not a knight) as suggested by the Rev. Jacob Ley.

It seems that every FULL holding of the villein, comprised *about* thirty acres (*i.e.* the usual virgate or yardland), scattered, however, in the open fields, in strips, and having certain rights of common according to the size of the holding—the smaller holdings being fractions of the virgate (v. Somerset Records, vol. 5, p 240, &c).

Taking a general view of the Colton of Domesday survey, the land would be found entirely unenclosed, save for a few small grass-crofts in the immediate neighbourhood of the lord's house and of the village; ditches possibly separating the meadows.

The arable grounds were divided by green baulks, or strips, about three yards in width, into fields of nearly equal size, generally three in number, cultivated in rotation. The whole township being managed as one common farm; roads, as we understand the word, were unknown, but in their stead were rough tracks and footpaths, taking generally the same course as our most frequented ways. Swamps and bogs abounded in the low-lying grounds, and have left their traces unmistakeably in the parish land, which still retains the name of the "Marsh." In the Bogs following the course of the "Drimble Hole" at Stockwell Heath, and again in the "Marshea Flats," thickets and coppices were scattered over the parish, besides the principal woods already noticed.

The Lord's house, roughly built of timber, and devoid of anything like comfort, stood in, or close to the field adjoining the church, still known as the \**"Castle Croft,"* and was protected by a ditch and wooden palisade. "The Marsh," making a formidable defence on the south side; the brook affording some additional security towards the west.

It will generally be found that the Lord built the church as close as possible to his own dwelling.

Good examples of the custom are to be seen at Blithfield, Hamstall- and Mavesyn-Ridware, Gayton, Colwich, and other villages in the neighbourhood. The church of that day would probably be constructed of wattle, or some equally perishable material, roofed with thatch. This, or something resembling it, was the state of things in Colton within twenty years of the Norman Conquest.

The over-lordship of Montgomery's, or Asselin's, manor was soon forfeited by the rebellion of Robert de Belesme, the able but turbulent son of Earl Roger; when it passed to the Fitz-Alan's; "between 1135 and 1160 A.D., the first William Fitz-Alan constituted, among other new fees, that of Walter Hose (or Hussey), which gave him the homage and service of the Mavesyn, who was Fitz-Alan's, Colton tenant." "Walter was succeeded by his son Ralph, circa. 1172 A.D., in the mesne lordship of Colton, which made up elsewhere what was needed for a full knight's fee, under Fitz-Alan (v. Eyton, S, H. C. I., 219). While the fact of the Fitz-Alan over-lordship explains the entry in the Pipe rolls of 1175-6 A.D.; where—following upon the fine for forest trespass, laid on the Colton Manor." "*Villata de Colton Roberti de Stafford reddit compotum de 2 marcis pro eodem*" (i.e., de misericordiâ pro forestâ), we find "*Villata de Colton de feodo Willelmi filii alani, reddit compotum de 3 marcis pro eodem.*" We have thus a mesne tenure inserted in the titheable manor of Colton, between the Seigneur and the sub-tenant who actually held

the land. It was afterwards extinguished, when the great family of Mareschall acquired the seignury, and compelled its surrender between 1277 and 1283 A.D. The suit of 1203 A.D., quoted below (A) shows clearly, as Mr. Eyton observes, the feudal position of Ralph Hose and his tenant Nicholas Mavesyn of Colton, with their different views of Mavesyn's obligations — Nicholas asserting that he held of Hose by the service of half a warder at the castle of Oswestry; and Ralph claiming besides the rent of a silver marc. Apparently, Ralph established this claim, for the P.M.I., of A.D. 1277, show the descendant of Nicholas continuing to pay it to William de Mareschall, who then held the manor of John Hose.

The roll is sufficiently important to be given here at length.

[ASSIZE ROLL, 5 *King John*, 1203 A.D., *Staff's*.

*Hist. Coll.*, vol. 3, p. 108.]

A.—Assisa venit recognitura si Nicholaus Malveisin injuste et sine judicio dissaisivit Radulphum Hose de libero tenemento suo in Coltonâ, post coronacionem domini Regis apud Cantuar. Et Nicholaus venit et dicit quod ipse tenet tenementum unde hæc assisa araniata est de ipso Radulpho, per servicium dimidii ascensoris ad custodiam castelli de Albo monasterio, et illud servicium paratus est facere, sed idem Radulphus exigit ab eo, ut dicit, illud servicium et preterea unam marcam argenti, ita quod in Curiâ suâ cum inde implacitavit, et tunc protulerit ipse breve Justiciariis in quo



continetur, quod non exigit ab eo consuetudines vel servicia, que facere non debet vel consuevit, et per illud breve venit loquela in comitatu, et ibi deducta fuit quousque illud breve non vendilatum fuit, et petit considerationem Curicæ si assisa ista deberat procedere; et Radulphus dicit quod ipse semper fecit ei illud servitium unius marcæ, et dimidii ascensoris de tenemento quod de eo tenet in Colton, donec ipse dissaisivit eum de illo servitio, et offert domino Regi unam marcam pro habendâ inquisitione utrum deberat illud servitium nec ne; oblatio recipitur, et Nicholaus ponit se in magnam assisam domini Regis, et petit recognicionem fieri utrum ipse debet tenere tenementum, quod de eo tenet in Colton, per servitium dimidii ascensoris ad custodiam castelli de albo Monasterio, tantum sicut ipse cognoscit, an per servitium dimidii ascensoris et preterea reddendo ei unam marcam per annum sicut ab eo exigitur; et Willelmus Verdon de Ypestan, Walterus de Witefeld, Johannes de Sautcheverell, Nicholaus de Buregeston, quatuor milites, venerunt et eligerunt istos ad faciendam inde magnam assisam scilicet Willielmum de Gresele, Willielmum de Handesacre, Robertum de Thamenhorn, Thomam de Kersewell, Nicolaum de Saut, Hamonem de Weston, Jordanum de Knit-lega, Philippum filium Episcopi, Petrum Giffard Hugonem filium Petri, Gaufridum Selvein, Mansel de Patleshull, Jeraume de Curcun, Radulphum de Blore, Robertum de Barre, Henricum del Broc, &c.

To return now to the Mavesyn's—we found the first of the line in Azeline, or Asselin, of Domesday, the undoubted ancestor of that family (S. H. C., vol. i., 222, &c). The name variously spelt occurs in more than one copy of Battle roll. “Malure et Malvesyn” (as given in Bromton’s List), “Mangysir et Mauvesyn” (according to Leland). Third in descent from this man came Sir Hugh de Mavesyn, who established himself on a rough steep hill in the district of Blithbury, adjoining Colton, and founded St. Giles’ Priory\* by the river Blythe, where the Priory Farm now stands, between the 30th year of King Henry First and the 14th of King Stephen (1130—1149 A.D.); subsequently he removed his own dwelling lower down to the banks of the Trent, in the village of Mavesyn Ridware, which still bears his name. An ancient gate-house marks the site, and Sir Hugh’s tomb is

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\* Shaw seems to have failed in discovering “Gawley;” it is probably identical with “Gailey,” a hamlet on the old Watling Street Road (near to the “Spread Eagle” station on the L N.W. Railway. It has recently been made a district parish.

For an account of this Priory (and the deed here alluded to), which was suppressed by Cardinal Wolsey, see Dugdale’s “Monasticon,” vol. 4, p. 160, where Shaw’s errors are clearly pointed out.

The graveyard of the Priory remains, and some trace of the ancient materials in the surrounding fence. “The green at Blithbury, where the four roads meet kept the name of ‘St. Giles’ green until the 16th century, and was marked by a stone cross. (Shaw.)

to be seen in the "Trinity aisle" of the parish church.

Contemporary with this man's sons and successors in Ridware, according to Shaw's account, was Robert, or rather Ralph Mavesyn, probably another son, who held land in Colton. Like many others of his name he was a distinguished soldier, and bore arms in the conquest of Ireland, receiving subsequently from Philip de Braose two Lordships in the county Limerick, containing as many as ten knight's fees, Kelmukelloc, the modern Kilmallock, and Kilmackena. Ralph Mavesyn, of Colton, left two sons, Nicholas Mavesyn de Colton, the elder, granted half a virgate of land here to Gilbert, his brother (circa. 1185 A.D.). The deed (quoted by Shaw) will be found in the appendix, it is witnessed amongst others, by Gerald and Geoffrey de Colton, and bears the seal of Nicholas, who is represented charging on horseback, fully armed and brandishing his sword.

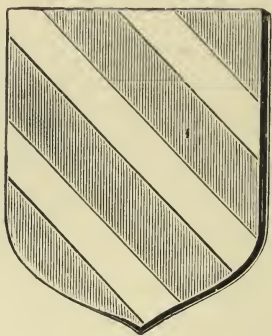
It is suggested (Staffs. Hist. Coll., vol. 3, p. 195), that Nicholas Mavesyn (I.), grantor of Stallington, to Stone Priory (c. 1150 A.D.), was the tenant of Colton Manor, under Fitz-Alan; that he was followed by Henry, his brother; and he, in turn, by Nicholas Mavesyn (II.), whom General Wrottesley identifies with the Nicholas of Colton (Assize roll, 1203 A.D.). But is this certain? because Nicholas (II.) left no son, his nephew Herbert being his heir (v. Stone Charters). Whereas, Nicholas of Colton, who was the son of Ralph Mavesyn, had a

son William, who succeeded him. It is quite possible that there were two Mavesyns named Nicholas at this date, since there were several branches of the family.

Nothing important is known about the main line of the Mavesyn family in relation to Colton. It was certainly connected with this place for at least ten descents; but not to any considerable extent. With a view, however, to simplifying the account, we will so far anticipate matters as to complete what little there is to tell of their interest here. Sir Henry Mavesyn, seventh of his line, held land here adjoining Blithbury; and his successor, Sir Robert Mavesyn, levied a fine on his property generally, including "Wheaten Acre," in Colton. Whilst his grandson and namesake, another Sir Robert, besides witnessing a grant of land here to John de Gresley, from Sir Thomas de Morley, the Marshal of Ireland, himself conveyed to him a croft in Colton.\* Save for their signatures to Colton deeds, we have no further concern with these elder Mavesyns; their influence in Colton was not of long continuance after the death of Asselin, and never exceeded that which would naturally belong to a powerful neighbouring family. Their small property here seems to have been ultimately surrendered by David Cawarden and his wife (temp. P. & Mary.) The Mavesyns bore for their arms, "on a shield gules, three bends (or bendlets) argent."

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\* 1383 A.D. is the date of this conveyance. Gresley Chartulary, Chetham Library, Manchester.



But if the influence of the “elder” line was inconsiderable, that of the younger was equally marked. As resident lords of the “Little Hay” manor, and certainly connected (though how nearly we can scarcely determine) with the De Coltons of the church manor, they shared with these last the lead in Colton affairs during the frequent absence of the De Wasteneyes. (Witness the assize-rolls and charters of this date.)

1199 A.D. Lesciline and Alice, sisters, bringing into court their right to inherit six acres of land and three of meadow here, recovered them from Nicholas, son of Ralph. The same Nicholas Mavesyn, in 1203 A.D., laid claim to present a rector to Colton Church, in the room of Richard, the priest, deceased (B); but a verdict was given for William Griffyn, in right of his wife Alice, the daughter of Gerald; and for Warin (Griffyn) de Colton, in right of his ward Hugh de Colton, the son of Matilda and nephew of Gerald on the mother’s side—Gerald having presented on the previous vacancy. The

Bishop was therefore to admit a fitting candidate on their nomination.

(B) “ Assisa venit recognitura quis advocatus tempore pacis presentavit ultimam personam, que mortua est, ad ecclesiam de Couton, que vacat ut dicitur, cujus advocationem Willelmus Griffyn et Alicia uxor ejus, et Wahrinus de Couton dicunt ad se pertinere, et illam clamant versus Nicholaum Malveisin et juratores dicunt quod Geraldus pater predictæ Alicie, et avunculus Hugonis quem Warinus predictus habet in custodiâ, presentavit ultimam personam, scilicet Ricardum presbyterum. Et judicium quod ipsi habeant breve ad episcopum loci, quod admittat idoneam personam ad presentationem eorum ad ecclesiam illam; et Nicholaus in misericordiâ.” (Assize Roll, 5 King John, 1203 A.D. Hist. Coll. Staffs.)

If we compare this suit with the entry which follows, we find clear evidence that Nicholas Mavesyn and Nicholas son of Ralph are identical. For there Stephen Meverell, one of the jurors on the assize for Colton advowson, between Nicholas *son of Ralph*, and William son of Griffyn, &c. (ut supra), excused his non-attendance, pleading the difficulty of the journey, as did John de Blithfield and Robert de Burley.

Of Gerard de Colton, who was either sole or joint lord of the church manor here, c. 1175 A.D., we have no further knowledge, except his signature to a Mavesyn deed. He may have been nearly connected with the Mavesyns—but I doubt that



connection being on the father's side. The tenure which divided this church manor, together with the advowson, between his sister's son and his own daughter is remarkable. Thomas, the father of Hugh by Matilda, is probably the Thomas de Colton fined two mares for forest trespass in 1175 (v. Pipe Rolls, Hist. Coll. Staffs.). A claim was raised 5 King John against Nicholas son of Ralph for seven and a-half acres of land and one and a-half of meadow in Colton by Juliana the daughter of Ralph, who established her right through her father. It is followed immediately by another entry where Juliana, in right of Ralph, claims four acres of land in "Lindenscroft," now held by Peter the Turner, who answered that he only held it as part of the wardship of one Thomas, son of Reginald, whose inheritance it was. Not satisfied with this, and pursuing her cause against Thomas in a plea tried at Gloucester later in the year, Juliana was defeated, Thomas being now described as the son of Roger. The land was held in socage tenure.

The history of the de Stafford Colton Manor is almost a blank for about 80 years, after the Domesday survey; but we know that it was held by the de Wasteneys, who were to be connected with Colton for so long a time.

To judge from the earliest spelling of the name (de "Gastiney's"), this family must have come from the district called the "Gastinois," lying to the south of Paris, and east of Orleans; thus much is certain that the first of the English line was a

follower of Robert de Stafford, and enfeoffed by that baron, both in his Lincolnshire and Staffordshire estates. (v. notes on *Liber Niger*, S. H. Coll., vol. i.)

The generally received tradition, (following an old French MS. belonging to the Gresley's) would recognise this ancestor in Ardulph (Hardolph) who held the manor of Osgarthorp, in Leicestershire, under Henry de Ferrers, A.D. 1086, and some pedigrees, including Erdeswick's, do not hesitate to give him the surname of "de Wastineys."† But there is no authority for so doing; for whilst the close connection between Colton and Osgarthorp, together with the fact that Sir Edmund de Wastineys, about 1290 A.D., gave the name of Hardolph to his eldest son, are sound arguments in favour of some kind of relationship, yet his claim to be the founder of the "Wastineys" family would need to be established on much better proof, even if it were not directly contrary, as it happens, to the reliable evidence of an early charter, which clears up this important point by supplying the missing links in the pedigree.

Besides the Osgarthorp Manor already mentioned, King Henry the First conferred on Hardolph and his heirs certain other Leicestershire lands at Ashfordby and Wartnaby;\* the date of the grant is not mentioned, but may be pretty accurately determined by the witnesses' names—the Count de Meulan,

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† A copy of Battle-roll couples the names of "Wastineys et Waville,"

or Mellent, Henry's minister and favourite, being one of them; and another, Geoffrey de Riddel, the justiciary, who was drowned in the wreck of the "White Ship" (Nov. 25, 1120 A.D.).\* Hardolph is said to have been twice married, (1) to Bertha, and (2) Ravenilda. His son Robert sold the Ashfordby land to the great Abbey of Leicester; and about 1165 A.D. obtained from Bertram de Verdon a considerable addition to his Osgarthorp estate;‡ besides a further grant in the same place from Hugh, Earl of Chester.†

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\* H. Rex Angl: Robto de Pauilli et omnibus baronibus et fidelibus suis Franc' et Ang' de Legecestresira sal.' Concedo huic Hardulpho, suisque heredibus in feudū et ejus hereditariū 4 carr terræ cū molendino et pratis et pascuis eisdem pertinentibus, quietā servitio pro 4 libris p' annum, et 2 carr quas mō tenet in Offerdebi de dono Alswini Wredes (or Alfwini Wrethet?) p. xl. solid; et in eodem Offerdebi, similiter in feudū 2 alias carr' terræ pr 10 solid quas eidē Alswinus Wredes concessit, et post obitū suū corā me, et meo concessu, Hardulphū inde hereditariū, et 1 carr terræ in Wargnodebi similiter in feudū et ejus hereditariū qetā ab omni servitio pr' 8 solid p. annum, et ipse inde ē meus hom' legius, et volo, et percipio ut terras istas bene et in pace et qēte et honorifice teneat, cū consuetudinibus et liberatibz cū qbz mō sunt, ut nemo ei inde injuriā aut contumeliā faciat, Testi 'Com de Melland et Gosfrid Ridel et Rbto de Ferrariis, apud Windesor. (Gresley Chart?)

Habemus ibidem ex concessione et quietā donatione Roberti filii Walteri, venditionem quam Robertus filius Hardulphi nobis fecit de tota terra suā quam habebat in Ashfordby. (Done before Roger, son of Refrid, Justiciary of our Lord the King 1186 A.D. Register of Leicester Abbey, quoted by Nichols.)

† H, comes Cestriæ, const', dapifer, justic', omnibus hominibus Franc et Angl'. . . . Roberto filio Hardulphi et heredibus

Earl Hugh's grant is particularly valuable for throwing light on the de Verdon charters,† to Robert son of Hardulph, and Robert son of Walter, at Osgarthorp. The first of which is as follows (v. Gresley Charters, No. 10)—“Bertram de Verdon conveys to Robert, son of Hardulph, all his land of Hangodesthorp (Osgarthorpe),‡ Co. Leic; which the said Bertram holds from Nigel de Munevilla, paying yearly fourteen shillings, “with Scordun and Stocwuda and Snape.”—Witnesses, Roger de Amundevile, Alan fil Mainsenini, Roger son of William, Simon, his brother, Philip de Estlee, Robert de Flameville, Ernald de Barewelle (Barnwell?) Ernald dapifer, Henry de Lee, Geoffrey de Normanville, Richard de Boisdele, Robert de Culunces, Waim clericus, Geoffrey clericus, Wido (*i.e.* Guy) de Verdun, William the Saracen, Robert Venator (late H. 2). The other grant at a later date confirming the same to Robert son of Walter's heirs, by Dina, his wife, the daughter of the above-mentioned Robert Fitz-Hardulph.

‡ “Bertramus de Verdon omnibus hominibus Franc' et Angl', &c. . . . confirmasse Roberto filio

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terr' de Angodesthorp que de feudo meo, sibi ad tenendum de Hamone fil' Meinselini et heredibus pro homagio honorifice. Test' Gilberto Picot, et Roberto' fratr' ejus. *Roberto fil Walteri*, &c.

Hugh *Cyveliok* (not Lupus, as generally supposed). Lupus died 1101 A.D.

The meadow called “Snape” occurs as de Wastineys' property in a deed of King John's time.—*Vide* Nichol's “Leicestershire.”

Walteri, et heredibus quas habebit de Dña Dina uxore ejus, filia Roberti filii Hardulphi, totam terram de Angodesthorp quam teneo de Nigello de Morevilla. 'Test' Thome, Dispensatore, Willmo Brito, Henrico Toche, Rādo Bingā."

Robert Fitz-Hardulph had already received these lands from Bertram de Verdon, who now settles them on Robert's daughter Dina, her husband and their heirs. Amphelis, their second daughter, in turn conveys them with her hand to her husband Sir Philip de Wastineys. The pedigree then stands thus :—

Hardulph, Lord of Osgarthorp.

|

Robert, son of Hardulph, Lord of Osgarthorp.

|

Dina, d. of Robert, son of Hardulph, married to  
Robert, son of Walter.

|

Amphelis, their second daughter, who marries Sir  
Philip de Wastineys, of Colton, and conveys  
to him the Leicestershire estates.

Thus most of the pedigrees are shown to be incorrect, and the connexion between Hardulph and the Wastineys is proved to have been only through the female line. The large inheritance of Amphelis enriched the de Wastineys' family with lands not only at Osgarthorp, but also at Kirkeby, Hunetorp, Frengeston and Hemington—places easily identified in the map of Leicestershire.



Inter Wm. de Verdon et Aliciā uxore ejus, et Phillipū de Wastineis et Ampheliciā ux' suā, et Simonē de Sancto Mauro et Isoldā uxore suā, de toto tenemento quod tenuit Dina, mater, predictarū Alici, Amphelici', et Isold.\*

The share of Amphelis is as follows:—

Philippo vero de Wastineis et Amphelissce pro parte sua remanent tenementa Roberti et Dinæ, et quod Robertus, filius Walteri, tenuit in Kirkebi, et quod Juliana de Darnell † ten et quod dicta Dina tenuit in Angodesthorpe ‡ et Hunetorp et Frengeston et 2 virg' terre in Hemington, quas Hugo de Waldo et Brune tenuerunt, et servicium Willielmi de Neylston. But wide as the Leicestershire lands were, which his great-grandaughter's hand brought to her husband, they gave Hardolph no claim to be called “de Wastineys.”

The true founder of the family, as already noticed, was Goisfrid (or Geoffrey), the same who occurs in the Lincolnshire Domesday, as homo Roberti de Stafford, holding of that baron, fiefs in Brune, Carleby, and especially Braseburg [besides the Staffordshire fee of Colton]. These Lincolnshire lands, lay in the south west corner of the county, and continued to be the chief seat of the de Wastineys family. The Pipe roll (17 K. John), 1215 A.D.,

\* Vide Gresley Chartulary. Chetham Library. Manchester.

† Juliana de Darnell appears again as concerned in the Leicestershire law suit.

‡ Osgarthorpe is variously written as Osgodesthorpe, Aggedesthorpe, Hangodesthorpe, and even Hasgotetorp.

gives a suit of Jocus de Wastineys, against Philip de Wastineys, who married Amphelis, for half a knight's fee in Carleby, "though at this time Baldwin Wake was mesne Lord of the Wasteneys' Lincolnshire Manors—under Milisent de Stafford—and over Philip de Wasteneys" (Eyton, vol. 2, S. H. C., p. 165). The Hundred rolls of Lincolnshire, 4 Ed. I. (1276 A.D.), prove William de Wasteneys to have held a quarter of a knight's fee in Thurlby, of Hugh Wake, and he of Hervey Bagot, who holds of the King in capite, as part of the honor of Stafford, of old feofment. William de Wasteneys holds by similar tenure, half a knight's fee in Bressingburn, and one fee in Carleby. In 1254 A.D., Sir William had obtained a royal charter of free warren, both for these lands and for his Colton Manor.

The Staffs "Liber Niger," or black roll of the Exchequer—a return of knights' fees throughout the kingdom, made 1166 A.D., by the Barons of the Exchequer, when King Henry II. demanded an aid for the marriage of his daughter Matilda, to Henry, the Lion, Duke of Saxony; or, as some hold, "made for general fiscal purposes, connected with the levy of scutage"—gives the names of William and Geoffrey de Wasteneys, as follows:—

" CARTA ROBTI DE STAFFORD.

"Wilhelmus de Wastineis tenet feod II. militum in suo dominio.

"Galfridus de Wastineis tenet feodum I. militis

et tertiam militis,\* scilicet duas partes in suo dominio et Wilhelmus de Caldona duas partes militis tenet de ipso.†”

Were further proof required it is to be found in one of the Ridware deeds quoted by Nichols (vol. 3 p. 1004), sanctioning in de Stafford's court a quit-claim on William de Ridware's estate from Robert and Simon Cappe, and signed by Geoffrey de Wastineys, as well as by William and Robert, sons of William de Wastineys, among many others, including seven members of the Bagot family (dating c. 1158-65 A.D.)

Two brothers, William and Robert de Wasteneys, who occur in a Lincolnshire business of 3 R. 1 (1191 A.D.) are possibly identical with those here mentioned. Full particulars of these names will be found in Staffs. Hist. Coll. (vol. 2 pp. 248-51), where the deed is printed at length, and annotated by Mr. Eyton.

Sir William's two fees were the Colton manor, with the Lincolnshire lands already described. Sir William could not have been born much later than 1120 A.D., because his sons did suit in Robert De Stafford's court c. 1160 A.D., which, as General Wrottesley notices, would leave but little time for re-feofment, since Domesday, to another family; whilst, supposing Goisfrid of 1086 A.D. to have

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\* This represents Tixall, with its two involved manors of Tixall and Broncot (Staffs. Hist. Coll. vol. 2, p. 250).

† Caldona (not Coldona). “*Caldon-on-the-Moors*” possibly.

died without issue ; and an entirely new feofment to have been made ; it is all but impossible that it should have been formed from these identical manors in the same two counties." Mr. Eyton's authority may be quoted in support of this view, "that, when a certain tenant is found holding different manors of one feudal lord, and you meet with the same manors held two or three generations afterwards by a tenant under the same feudal superiors, and by the same service, the second tenant is the undoubted descendant of the first." That the name Geoffrey continued in the family, is proved by *Liber Niger*, and by the pedigree of the Tixal line.

Who succeeded "Goisfrid" we cannot say positively. The probability is that the William and Geoffrey of 1166 A.D., though the former had sons already of age, were themselves the grandsons rather than the sons of Geoffrey ; if so, one generation has been lost. That Sir Geoffrey held the Tixall fee, and founded that branch of the family, is certain from Alan de Nevil's roll, where "Tikes-hala Gaufridi" is fined and pays one marc. His elder brother, the Sir William already referred to, was married, we believe, to Alice de Acton, and had certainly two sons, William and Robert, the same present c. 1160 and 1191 A.D., as has been already stated.

In the Assize Roll, 1202 A.D., we find Josceus, son of Robert de Wastinais, suing Philip de Wastinais, son of William, to receive his homage and

relief, &c., for the land he claims to hold of him in Brune. Philip comes and complies before the justices. (M. 5 Roll 11. Staffs. Hist. Coll. vol. 3 p. 74.)

After Robert's death, Agatha, his widow, had married William de St. Landa, a Lincolnshire kt. A dispute arose touching her dower, and she was compelled to call her son and heir Jocus de Wasteneys, to be her warrantor, when challenged by Sir Philip de Wasteneys, the opponent. The suit occurs in the assize roll and gives valuable assistance to the pedigree. (13 John 1212 A.D.)

In 1212 A.D. Josceus pursuing Philip de Wastineys for two carucates in Carleby, as part of the land for which Philip had received his homage in the preceding plea, lost his cause, because that plea only concerned land in Brune (Assize Rolls, 14 John m. dorso. Staffs. Hist. Coll. vol. 3 p. 158.) Sir Philip had been his cousin's guardian. A brief entry in the Gresley Chartulary proves that Josceus had a son of the same name. Of Sir William de Wastineys, Philip's father, by Matthania, who survived her husband, we have only one other short notice, when he was fined two mares in 1174-5 A.D. (Pipe Rolls). He had perhaps another son, the Anselm de Wasteneys who occurs with Agnes de Wasteneys in an important claim against the owners of "Little Hay," and of the Mareschal (or church) manor here. It was tried on January 13, 1212 A.D.—(Staffs. Hist. Coll. vol. 3, p. 153)—when Agnes de Wastineys by her attorney sued William

Griffyn and Alice his wife for one-fourth part of a hide of land in Colton; they appeared and prayed a view, which was granted. Also, she sued Hugh, son of Matilda, for a quarter of a hide here; and William, son of Nicholas (Maveysin), for half a hide (=Little Hay), who both gave the same answer. —Are we to gather from this division that she was trying for the whole of Little Hay, and for half or for a quarter of the “whole” De Colton (or church) manor?—The suit was deferred; at first because Hugh de Okeover and others of the knights summoned excused themselves for non-attendance by the difficulty of the journey to Nottingham, and then by the defendants pleading sickness. The result of the assize unfortunately has not come down to us. It suggests the question whether Agnes was a De Colton who had married a Wasteney, and claimed under some old Saxon tenure? We know that the church manor was certainly divided in an unusual fashion (*vide* the Colton advowson suit of 1203 A.D.) Two years before, Ralph Bret, being sued by one Roger de Costentin for nine acres of Colton land which Laura, his mother, had held till her death (or, as the Feet of Fines state, which Harold held) called *Matthania de Colton* to warrant to him the land, who, holding it in dower only, summoned Philip de Wasteney, her son, to warrant it in turn to her. Later on, the same year, Walter Bret was sued by *Matthania de Wastineys* for four acres in Colton, but, not following up the charge, she and Geoffrey de Colton, her pledge, were



adjudged to be amerced. Amongst other trials of this period is a claim for land at Osgarthorp, raised against Sir Philip de Wastineys, and Amphelis, his wife, when the latter was represented by *Elias de Colwygh*, her attorney; this is worth notice, as another link connecting the Staffordshire and Leicestershire estates. In 7 King John, Sir Philip himself is plaintiff against John, son of Stephen de Acton, for  $\frac{2}{3}$  of a fee (equal to a whole fee of Moretain) in Acton (Trussell), as formerly (c. 1135), the property of Alice de Acton, his ancestress (Staffs. Hist. Coll. vol. 2, p. 135). The case was referred for trial by the great assize, although it had been tried already, while Sir Philip was in ward, and a minor. Difficulties and delays continued, however, to be raised, chiefly through essoins of the knights summoned; so that at one time we find Geoffrey de Colton, at another William Bagot, appearing for Sir Philip; and the final issue has been lost to us entirely, for the assize roll of Feb. 9, 1207, remains unfinished. Sir Philip de Wastineys was opposed to King John, but came in and did homage (v. Close rolls 1216-17 A.D.), at Mount Sorrel. The Sheriffs of Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, and Staffordshire are ordered, therefore, to give him seizin of his lands. A single entry in the assize roll of 1228 A.D., furnishes some insight into the state of public affairs ten years before, and suggests, no doubt, the right explanation of Sir Philip's sudden recovery of his manors, and reconciliation with the King. It comes out incidentally (A), when William de Wastineys sues

John le Mareschal, for depriving him illegally of certain Colton lands, which Philip, his father, had made over to him, as part of his maintenance. Until General Wrottesley's research brought this roll to light, it was impossible to account for any "Mareschal" interest in Colton, but the whole is easily understood, when we learn "that Sir Philip had been captured at Mt. Sorrel, and carried prisoner to Nottingham; where John le Mareschal forced him to sign a surrender of the lands in question." The "le Mareschal" interest was certainly paramount at court until the date of the Regent Pembroke's death in 1219 A.D., whilst the royal party had so much the upper hand in that part of Lincolnshire where the de Wastineys property lay, that Sir Philip's submission is easily understood; like the interpolated tenure of "le Mareschal," between Hussey and the de Coltons, in the Colton Church Manor, which may be traced to a similar source; even, if this enforced surrender was not, as is most probable, "the ransom which opened his prison door."

A. *Assize Roll*, 12, II. 3 (1228 A.D.), *Staffs.*

*Hist. Coll.*, vol. 4, p. 56.

Assisa venit recognitura, &c., si Johannes Marescallus injuste, &c., disseisivit, Willielmum de Wastineis de libro tenemento suo in Colton post ultimum redditum, &c. Et Bertramus baillivus ipsius Johannis venit, et nihil dicit quare assisa remaneat (*i.e.* he conceded the assize). Juratores

dicunt quod predictus Johannes disseisivit predictum Wm. injuste, quia Philippus de Wasteneis dedit terram illam ipsi Wmo. filio suo ad se sustinendum (for his maintenance), et in plenā seisinā posuit ita quod cepit homagium et fidelitatem (fealty) de hominibus tempore pacis; et Johannes Marescallus, tempore pacis et ante gwerram (before the war), disseisivit eum injuste. Postea vero captus fuit idem Philippus apud Mount Sorrel, et imprisonatus apud Nottingeham, tunc tantum fecit versus eum quod dedit ei terram illam, quam prius dederat ipsi Wmo. filio suo, et in prisa fecit ei cartam suam (ut intelligunt). Et ideo Willelmus habeat inde seisinam suam; et Johannes in misericordiâ. Dampna (damages) xxiii. marcas, super hoc (afterwards) venit Ricardus de Wrottam, Senescallus Johannis Marescalli, et offert Domino Regi xl. (s) pro habenda jurata xxiv., ad convincendum xii. (*i.e.* to convict the twelve jurymen of a false judgment.)

In 1219 A.D., the King certifies the Sheriffs of Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, and Staffs., that Sir Philip has licensed William de Wasteneys, his son, before the King, to act as his father's representative in matters relating to their respective counties, while Sir Philip is absent on business in Scotland—until Easter in the following year.\* His death must have occurred between 1228—1235 A.D.; his wife Amphelis had deceased before 1224, we should

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\* Close rolls (1219 A.D.). Salt Library,

conclude; because her son, Sir William, presented in that year to the living of Osgarthorp—a part of his mother's estate—while Sir Philip was still alive (v. Nichols). There was a law suit for a bovate of land in Admaston (Staffs. Hist. Coll., vol. 4, p. 59), (12, 'H. 3), when John and Juliana de Hanyard, plead that they hold the said land, through Philip de Wasteneis—being an escheat of a certain robber, William, son of Luke, which Philip had given to Juliana's former husband, Robert de Admaston—but, beyond this, and his signature, as early as 1200 A.D. to a charter of the Bishop's about the "Lount" estate in Colton, we know nothing further of Sir Philip de Wasteneis.

Sir William, his son and heir, was returned as holding the Wasteney's Lincolnshire lands of Hugh Wake, who held of Harvey Bagot, and Hervey of the King in capite (1235 A.D.). Five years later King Henry granted him the right to hold a weekly market (B) every Friday at his Colton Manor.

B. Rex Archiepis &c., salutem, "Sciatis nos concecisse, et presenti cartâ confirmasse, Wmo de Wasteney's, quod ipse, et heredes sui, in perpetuum habeant unum mercatum, apud manerium suum de Colton, singulis septimanis per diem veneris, nisi predictus mercatus sit ad nocumentum vicinorum mercatorum, quare volumus, &c." Testibus W. Ebor' Archiepiscopo, S de Segrave, Wmo de Cantilupe, Johanne filio Galfridi (?) Bertramo de Cryoyl, Johanne de Pleßs (Plessetis) Bartholomeo Pech, Drogone de Barenton, Thoma de Albo Monasterio

(Oswestry) et aliis. Dat' apud Westmon' I die marcii, anno regni xxv. (Record Office, Royal Charters.

This must have been of great importance to the village—an era in its history—and a marked instance of the increasing interest which we find the de Wastineys now beginning to show in their Colton property. Sir William gave to John le Bret for homage and service the land called “Calvescroft,” which Geoffrey Armiger held; also a meadow known as Sollichinge to “Firsoulls,” which Robert, son of Matilda, held in the village of Colton. The same charter book (No. 506 Harl. MSS. B.M., page 71) supplies this extract, the date of which may be conjectured from a deed immediately following on the same page, whereby Hugh, son of Thomas de Colton, of the Church Manor, conveys to John Bret, “all that parcel of land which belonged to Gerard, my uncle on the mother’s side, adjoining John Bret’s land.” Gerard has been previously referred to as the father of Alice, in a trial about the right of presentation to Colton Church, *circa* 1203 A.D.; whilst the sons of Hugh de Colton went to law in 1279 A.D. We may therefore be justified in dating the present deed *circa* 1240—1250 A.D. (v. appendix).

Among other Colton trials mentioned in the Assize Rolls, in 1228 A.D. (12 H. 3), a colt belonging to Wm. Griffyn, and valued at 3s. 6d., had killed Alice, daughter of Peter de Coltun, by a kick. A judgment of misadventure was returned, stating



that no presentment of "Englishery" was made; because she lived for some time after the accident. Previously to this, in 1208 A.D., Robert, son of Robert the Clerk, laid claim to eighteen acres of land here as his father's inheritance, and established his right against Geoffrey de Witfinker.

The suit of 1227 A.D. (p. 44, vol. 4, S. H. C.), between William son of William plaintiff, and Wm. the Smith, Bertram de Calton, Robert de Calton, Roger de Calton, and Peter de Spendure for land in Kalton, I am disposed to think refers not to Caldton-on-the-Moors, but to Colton, especially as the sureties of William son of William (*i.e.*, of Little Hay) are Waryne de Colton and William Gryffyn—William son of William being the son of the William son of Nicholas Mavesyn of 1212 A.D. The pleas of 1247 A.D. show William de Wasteney's withdrawing his claim against Roes de Verdun and the Prioress of Grace Dieu\* of Belton, Leicestershire.

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\* For an account of "Grace Dieu Priory," Nichol's "Leicestershire," vol. 3, p. 651—655, may be consulted; or Potter's "Antiquities of Charnwood." It was founded by Rose de Verdon, *circa* 24 H. 3, in honour of St. Mary and the Holy Trinity, for nuns of the Augustine order. Sir William de Wasstineys was one of its benefactors in 1279. The names of Prioresses known are—Agnes de Gresley, 1242; Mary de Stretche, 1243; Margaret Zouche; Elizabeth Shyrbourne, 1483; Agnes Litherland, 1539. This last was forced to surrender to Henry VIII., with her fourteen nuns. Situated on the edge of Charnwood forest, the Priory is now, we are told, only a picturesque ruin. "The name, like that of 'Valle Crucis,' is both poetical



In 1242 (?) Sir William and Stephen his brother had witnessed a deed of Agnes de Gresley, then Prioress of the same nunnery. Twenty years later the same Agnes and her nuns agree with William de Wasteneys of Osgodthorp, and other of the free tenants there, for common of pasture in their Belton woods (reserving the park) for their cattle, goats only excepted, at all times; and for pigs between Michaelmas and Martinmas, in exchange for similar rights over the Osgarthorp woods. The Stephen de Wastineys above named is, we conclude, the same found receiving the royal pardon in the \*Patent Rolls of 57 H. 3 (1267 A.D.) "Know ye that we we have empowered our beloved and faithful Philip Marmyon and William Bagod to receive into our peace Stephen de Wastineys, John de Wormeley, Roger Calke and their companions, who stood out against us in the present disturbance of our kingdom: provided that they give good and sufficient security that they will act faithfully in future. (Given by the King, at Stratford, May 17th.)

We meet again with this same Stephen in a curious return, from the Lincolnshire Hundred rolls,

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and expressive of humble trust." Wordsworth thus describes it:—

“Beneath yon eastern ridge, the craggy bound,  
 Rugged and high of Charnwood's forest ground,  
 Stand yet, but, stranger, hidden from thy view—  
 The ivied ruins of forlorn ‘Grace Dieu,’  
 Erst a religious house, &c., &c.”

\* V. Transcripts, Salt Library.

dated 4 Ed. I. (1276 A.D.) where, under the heading of Inquisitions of the Wapentake of Aveland, it is stated, that Sir William de Wasteneys had acted very oppressively as Sheriff, in 55, H. 3 (1271 A.D.)

Especially that he had sent Stephen his brother with a band of men to Emma Baggot's house at Hacunby, and robbed her of property to the value of 100 shillings—not contented with this, they had carried off Simon Baggot, her brother, and 2 men of Hoyland, names unknown; the Hoyland men being unable to pay ransom, were beheaded in the park at Brune; whilst they threw Simon into prison, and kept him there 6 years until Emma Bagot paid 20 marcs to Sir Wm. de Wastineys for his release—a striking instance of the then disturbed state of the Kingdom, and of the cruelty with which the Sheriffs extorted the money they had to

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“ Item dicunt juratores quod Willelmus de Wastenais, custos pacis, potestate officii sui per procuramentum Nicholai Papillum de Baston, et Simonis de Gotehirst in Hacunby, misit Stephanum fratrem suum, et Benedictum de Dyesword, et plures alios, quorum nomina ignorantur, ad domum Emme Baggot de Hacunby, et de omnibus bonis suis ipsam depredaverunt ad valenciam centum soliduū, et Simonem fratrem dicte Emme, et alios duos homines de Hoyland 'quorum nomina ignorantur', ceperunt, et Apud Stamford abduxerunt, et illos duos homines de Hoyland sub parco de Brunn decollaverunt, quia non habuerunt aliquid eis dare; et Simonem fratrem dicte Emme imprisonaverunt, donec dicta Emma solvit pro redemptione dicti Simonis XXti. marcas Willelmo de Wastenays, jam sex annis elapsis.”  
 [Note, by Genrl. Wrottesley.]

remit to the Exchequer from defenceless people, whom they ought to have protected.

The fact that both in 1242, and 1271 A.D., Stephen is mentioned, *with Sir William, his brother*, makes it very unlikely that they could be Sir Philip's sons, of whom the eldest represented his father as early as (1219 A.D.), or, that Sir William, who would then be, at the least, seventy years of age, was the active and tyrannical Sheriff, here represented; on these grounds we prefer to identify the William and Stephen in question, with Sir Philip's grandsons, and the sons of Sir William (3) de Wastineys, by Margaret his wife. The question in the absence of further evidence must remain somewhat obscure—but, this explanation, which appears the best, would make Sir William (4) succeed his father William (3), about 1240 A.D. In the Plea roll of 29 Ed. I. (1301 A.D.), Staffs Hist Coll., vol. 7, p. 78), John de Wasteneys, describes himself as the son of William, who was the son of a former William, which corroborates this view.

Like most men of his time, Sir William de Wasteneys was fond of the chase; witness the right of free warren\* which he obtained from the crown over his Lincolnshire, Staffordshire, and Leicestershire property, as follows:—

“Rex Archiepis, &c., salutem. Sciatis nos concessisse et hac cartâ nostrâ confirmasse, dilecto et

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\* Free warren was a more limited privilege than free chase; it gave an exclusive right to certain animals, but did not extend to deer or vert.—[Eyton.]

fideli nostro Willielmo de Wasteney, quod ipse, et heredes sui in p̃petuum, habeant liberam warennam in omnibus dominicis terris suis de Brasingbury et Carleby in comitatu Lincoln; et in omnibus dominicis terris suis de Asgarethorp, in com. Leyc, et in omnibus dominicis terris suis de Colton, in com. Stafford. Datum apud Windsor, Decbr. 14, 48 H. 3 (1264 A.D.). Hiis testibus, Henrico filio Regis Alem', nepote nostro, Wmo. de Valence fratre nostro, Humfrido de Boon [Bohun] comite Hereford et Essex, Philippo Basset, Hugone Bigod, Jacobo de Aldithley, Rogero de Mortuo-Mari, Willielmo de Wilton, Roberto Aguillon, Radulpho de Bakepuiz, Galfrido de Percy, Willielmo Colet." (Record Office, Royal Charters.)

The old Park was probably now enclosed (*c.* 1264 A.D.). His Colton estate was valued this same year at a full knight's fee.

The proportion of arable land was no doubt constantly undergoing change, as new families were introduced into the place, and portions of waste ground gradually taken in and cultivated, with the consent of the Lord of the Manor. Rather more than one-third of the Colton lands were now in the hands of this family; the other principal land-owners being the Mavesyns of "Little Hay Manor;" the De Coltons and Griffyns, of the Church (or Mareschal) Manor; the Canons of St. Thomas' Priory, who owned the Grange and Lount properties; besides some smaller holdings, like that of the rector of the parish; and the "town" land, belong-

ing to the village—corrupted, sometimes, into the “Tom field.”

In 1269 A.D., Sir William gave land here, which is described as lying from “Mill Acre” to “Back Pool,” to William, son of Roger, the Smith of Colton; \* and received from Geoffrey, son of Warin de Colton, all the said Geoffrey’s rights and property in the village. The Gresley Chartulary contains besides a further reference to a grant of land from Sir William to Gregory, son of Adam, son of Swain, of Colton. This last is the more important, because witnessed by Pagan (or Payne) de Wasteneys, of the Tixal line. Six years before a quit claim of Bromley lands to Richard, son of Hugh Bagot, had been attested by Sir William and Payne de Wasteneys, whose relationship had not hitherto, it seems, been forgotten. (*v.* Pedigree.)

The rolls of 1253 A.D. contain an action for damage done by Peter de Nevil, Wm. le Estrange, Robert de Arderne, Wm. de Chawurth, William de Wasteneys, and others, to Walter de Hugford. It appears they had come armed to his manor at Shanketon, broken open the hall locks, on the Sunday before the feast of St. Margaret, 36. H. 3, and stayed there till the Tuesday following; taking 4 pigs, 2 quarters of wheat, 1 of peas, 10 cartloads of hay, besides carrying off a stallion and a mare, 13 oxen, and 7 horses, with a cartload of “plenishing” (*warnestura*) to the house of the said Peter at

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\* Gresley Chartulary. The seal bears a lion rampant beneath a chief cheque.

Athelaxton. Peter denied the whole charge; but the jury gave a verdict against him for £15 16s. 4d. (Staffs. Hist. Coll., Vol. 4, p. 124). In 1276, 4 Ed. I., William de Wasteneys was suffering in turn from similar violence at the hands of neighbours; when Alan de Threngston, Robert his brother, Ralph Paynel, John son of Robert de Threngston, and 16 others named, came “vi et armis” to Osgosethorp (*sic*) and carried off his goods and chattels to the value of 100s. The Sheriff was ordered to distrain and produce them. Previously, in 1227 A.D., one William Lapson, with Robert the parson, William the clerk, and Matilda his wife, were fined by the King’s judges for unjustly depriving Nicholas de Alewy of a croft in Colton. Robert had refused to appear, or to find sureties, because he was a cleric; the others were convicted by the jury. The disturbed state of the country during the close of Henry III. rd’s reign had fostered a spirit of lawlessness which left its mark even here in an outburst of violent crime. About 55 H. 3 (1270 A.D.) Nicholas, son of William de Colton, stabbed Adam, son of Hereward, in a brawl at Dutton. The murderer fled for his life to Colton Church, and there took sanctuary, according to the custom of the time, from the first hour till midnight. The villagers of Colton appear to have acted with spirit, and would have guarded the church to secure his arrest, for which they were answerable, but were prevented by Ralph de Burgh, who, being prompted by William le Jovene (Mavesyn), lord of Little



Hay, connived at the murderer's escape. For this evasion Leomine de Bokenton levied a fine of 100 shillings to the use of Hamon le Strange, then sheriff (a very considerable sum, equivalent to 2,500s. at the present day). It appears, by the way, that Hamon kept the money, and was afterwards called to account. At the inquest on the body of Adam, the villagers of Colton, Abbots and Bagot's Bromley did not appear, and were fined in consequence. Only the following year (1271 A.D.) the village itself was the scene of a shocking murder, when John, the chaplain of Colton, serving very probably the chapel on the site of Bellamore Lodge, killed Christina, wife of Nicholas de Colton, whilst interposing between him and a stranger residing at her house, striking her in the stomach with a knife, although the blow was really intended for her guest. John fled from justice, and was outlawed, his goods being confiscated.\* Was this possibly the same John referred to in the Close Roll of 41 H. 3 (1257 A.D.), directing the Sheriff of Staffs. to deliver to William, son of William de Colton, seisin of one messuage, two acres of land, and a rod of meadow here, which John "le Prestre" held, who was outlawed for felony, as it had remained a year and a day in the King's hands (dated St. Albans, March 7)? It seems not unlikely that he had returned by some means or other to enter again on his criminal courses. At the inquest on the body of

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\* Staffs. Hist. Coll., Vol. 4, p. 211.

Christina, judgment of murder was given against the hundred. The record states that "no Engleschere was presented," meaning that the murdered man was not proved to be of English birth by the oaths of two near relations; consequently, by King Canute's law against the slayer of any Dane or foreigner, the heavy fine of sixty-six mares was exacted. This law, which William I. reimposed, led to great abuses, and was afterwards repealed in 1341 A.D. Later evidence will show how little security for life Colton possessed down to the end of Edward I.'s reign.

To return to civil suits, the patent rolls of 49 H. 3 record a trial of mort d' ancestor, which Robert, son of Robert Mauveysin, brought against John de Weyville and Margery his wife, with some others, about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  acres in Colton. A deed (given in the appendix) proves that Sir John de Weyville, Kt., had 10 acres here—possibly in addition to these—from the form employed, we should gather that the land came by his marriage. The same rolls, A.D. 1250, mention a trial\* of novel disseisin brought by Robert, son of John de Admaston, against James de Blithfield, his son John, and others, touching a certain hedge which they had pulled down in Colton—no doubt on the Admaston

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\* "Assize of novel dissiesin." The Justices of Assize went on circuit for seven years, and no assize or trial was allowed before them which commenced before the last circuit, which was called an "ancient assize," and that which was on a disseisin (ejectment) since the last circuit was called an assize, or trial, of "novel disseisin."

and Blithfield side of the parish—"The Sheriff of Staffordshire is therefore ordered to look to it, at the time and place," &c. It is interesting to find how local tradition, unconsciously preserved in the place name, confirms the record, for the Sheriff's visit on this occasion was unquestionably the origin of the "Sherra Cop" lane; as the road, almost dividing the two parishes, is still called. One of the Blithfield deeds mentions this lane as ("Semitam Vice Comitis") "the path of the sheriff." "Cop" is, of course, "the top of the hill," over which the road runs. The word occurs again in "Stile Cop" ("coping," &c.) The name has been used for nearly six hundred and fifty years, yet even to the educated it has conveyed no definite meaning, and suggested no research!

Passing over another small succession claim given in the Patent Rolls of 43 H. 3 (1259 A.D.), which Margery, daughter of Richard le Despencer, and Sibilla her sister, brought against Wm. le Wygeford and others, for one messuage and 9 acres here; a more interesting trial occurs in 1269 A.D. (Pleas), when Robert, son of John de Edmundston (Admaston), was sued by Richard, son of James de Blithfield; for common of pasture in 5 acres in Colton, which had belonged to his father, James de Blithfield, because Robert's denial states that "William de Wasteneys, William de Colton, William Griffyn, and Hugh, son of Thomas," held the said land in common and in severalty, as the Colton lords (see also a Blithfield deed of 1257 A.D., given in the

appendix, for confirmatory evidence). The matter was referred to a jury. The Patent Rolls of 40 H. 3 show Nicholas "le Messenger," of Admaston, suing William le Mareschal and William Griffyn for a tenement here on the church manor; whilst in 1259 A.D. (Patents 43 H. 3) John, son of Warin (Griffyn) de Colton, William de Stivinton, and Adam de Prees had a suit with William of William of Little Hay (?) and others (M. 6 dorso).

The Assize roll contains another trial with one Adam Iwayn,\* of Ridgley, who had erected a mound and hedge on the Ridgley side of the Trent, thereby turning the water over the opposite bank, and injuring the freehold of John le Counter and Peter le Bret, of Colton. The Colton people appear to have had the best of it. In the Abstract of Fines, 1 Ed. I. (1272—3 A.D.) Avice, the wife of William Griffin, of Colton, gives a half-mark to have an assize or trial before Ralph de Hengham and Walter de Helyun, the King's judges.

Agnes, the widow of Hugh Bonel, suing John Bonel for one-third of a messuage and 8 acres in Colton, as her dower, gains a verdict (in 1279-80 A.D. Plea rolls). Two years later a more important question was raised, when David, son of Griffin, and Elizabeth his wife, claimed one-third of the Colton (Church) Manor from John le Mareschal,

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\* Iwen, or Ywen, was the name of a well-known Rugeley family. The Patent Rolls, 1271 A.D., mention a suit brought by William de Handsacre against Robert Ywen, for common of pasture in Rugeley.

as Elizabeth's dower. John replied that he held only 19s. rent there, of which he offered a third, thereby allowing her status; but they answered that when the writ was issued he held the whole manor. A jury was to be summoned to decide it (M. 79 D. Staffs. Hist. Coll., Vol. 6, p. 100). David's place in the Griffyn pedigree is obscure. The Patent Rolls represent Agatha de Morhay seeking common of pasture rights in Colton, on the Little Hay, and Church Manors, against William le Jovene (Mavesyn) seigneur, and Henry, son of Hugh de Colton, besides others named in the writ (Staffs. Hist. Coll., Vol. 6, p. 145. M. 27 D.). But the pleas of that same year (7 Ed. I.) show that she withdrew her claim. In 1282 A.D. John de Wasteneys is joint owner of certain lands here with John le Marischal [v. P. M. I.].

In 1278 (6 Ed. 1) the Sheriff had been ordered to take four lawful and discreet knights of Staffs., and go to the King's Hundred of Pirchill, and there, in full Hundred Court, record the plea of trespass which was before it, without a King's writ, which Robert Cradock, of Admaston, and Tho. Alynor, and Mabel his wife (names frequently occurring in the deeds, *v.* appendix) had brought against William de Beverle, rector of Colton, and William de Uttoxeter, with Juliana his wife, and respecting which they complained a false verdict had been given against them. The record was, therefore, brought into court, but the four lawful men of the Hundred, who had been present at the former trial,

did not appear. The Sheriff is to distrain, and produce them\* (M. 42). Two years later we find Henry, son of Hugh de Colton, and John Griffyn are sued for unjustly depriving William, son of Matilda de Uttoxeter, and Juliana, of common of pasture in 40 acres of wood (belonging to the Church Manor), where they used to common with all kinds of cattle after the time of mast. Henry and John stated that the plaintiffs had never enjoyed such a right in the wood, which had been inclosed ever since the time of King John, and they gained the verdict† (M. 39). William de Beverley (Beverlaco), parson of Colton church, reappears (in 1272-3 A.D.), pursuing William Mavesyn le Jovene, seigneur, John, son of Geoffrey de Colton, and two others named, for 60 mares owing to him (M. 21, Pleas 12-13, Ed. I.).

Lawsuits multiplied incessantly about this time. Robert de Pipe brought an action against Adam de Colwich and others for pasture rights here; John de Colton (Patents 1279) sued Henry de Colton and others for similar rights. In 1284 A.D. Roger de Aston did the same against John de Wasteneys and others for common of pasture. So, on the other lordship, did Adam de Colwys against John, son of Adam, for tenements in both parishes (*i.e.*, probably on their borders). In 1284 A.D. John, son of William, son of Gilbert de Colton, claimed of John, son of William de Colton, a messuage and  $15\frac{1}{2}$  acres

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\* Staffs. Hist. Coll., Vol. 6, p. 88.

† S. H. C., Vol. 6, p. 147.



here, who answered that he had never been rightly summoned, and offered to wage his law; he is therefore to come now with his compurgators.\* The Gresley Chartulary, it will be found, gives John, son of William, son of William, son of Gilbert, *inserting another William*, which is more correct. The Gilbert was, I think, Nicholas Mavesyn's brother, and the  $15\frac{1}{2}$  acres identical with the original  $\frac{1}{2}$  virgate, which Nicholas gave him, as we noticed before, in Colton.

The pleas of 16-17 Ed. I. show Matilda, John le Counter's widow (and possibly the mother of William of Uttoxeter?), suing John Griffyn for a messuage here by writ of entry. The defendant calls to warranty John, son of John le Counter. The following year, Amice, widow of Robert, son of Hugh de Colton, claimed from William, son of Adam de Chetwynde, one-third of a messuage in Colton, as her dower; William came, and prayed a view. She also sued Richard Bagot, and Christiana his wife, for one-third of an acre; and Roger, son of William at Asshe for one-third of  $\frac{1}{2}$  an acre, in the same vill, as dower. They did not appear; the dower is to be taken into the King's hands, and they to be summoned. She further claimed of the same Roger 4 acres here; and of Richard le Cok a messuage as her right (M. 62 D). The case was continued at Hillary term, when she withdrew her writ for the 4 acres, because part of it was not her

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\* P. 134, S. H. C., Vol. 6.

dower, for John le Harper, her father, had given  $1\frac{1}{2}$  acres of it to Roger, though the residue was given by Cecily, her mother, to Robert and her in frank marriage (M. 58 D). It is to be noticed that she is now called *Avice*, and not *Amice*.

The Abstract of Fines (24 Ed. I., 1296 A.D.) returns Philippa, the daughter of Richard Falinthewell, of Colton, as paying  $\frac{1}{2}$  marc to have an assize. "Falinthewell" is to be identified with the modern "Fullwell," which is variously spelt elsewhere. She had a suit against John Falinthewell of Colton, chaplain, this same year at Wolverhampton.

The previous year (23 Ed. I.), Henry, son of Hugh de Colton, gained a verdict, with 40d. damages, against John Griffyn and William de Newton, of Colton, for 2 pieces of land here, one 54 feet by 4 feet, the other 12 feet by 8 feet! A small matter enough for a lawsuit. There was another trial, at the same assizes, which proved Alice, daughter of Henry Griffyn, of Colton, to have been unjustly dissiesed of  $\frac{1}{2}$  a messuage and 3 acres here, by Agnes, her sister, Richard de Rolvyston, William, son of John Griffyn, and John his brother.

The Griffyn family continue incessantly involved in actions at law, both as plaintiffs and defendants, at this date. Some of these we have already pointed out, but there are more to follow before the reign of Ed. I. is ended. 27 Ed. I., William Griffyn, and Eleanor his wife, sued John Griffyn, of Colton, for causing waste and destruction in the houses, woods, &c., in Colton, which they had demised to him for

his life. The case was adjourned for John to appear at Trinity term. The next year, William, son of John Griffyn, John, son of John Griffyn, and Robert, son of John Griffyn, were accused of unjustly depriving John, son of William, son of Gilbert, of Colton, of a messuage, 10 acres of land, and an acre of meadow here. William, son of John Griffyn, replied as tenant that he had entered on the tenements by one Margaret Stonynges, and that the said William (*i.e.*, John, son of William?) had never been seised of them. The jury say that Margaret Stonynges was formerly wife of William Gilbert, the father of the complainant, and had left issue the said John. She had then married one William Skill, whom she deserted after a while, and gave the tenements by a deed to William, son of John Griffyn, he undertaking to find her for her life in food and clothing; and she had lived  $1\frac{1}{2}$  years after signing that deed, and on her death John, son of William Gilbert, entered on the tenements for one day, when William, son of John Griffyn, and the others ejected him.\* John, son of William, afterwards withdrew his plea, but upon a second suit the verdict was in his favour; he was, therefore, to re-enter, and have 20s. damages. [N.B.—The jury say one Robert Mavesyn had given it to William, son of Gilbert. If so, it was natural enough, seeing Gilbert was the brother of Nicholas Mavesyn.] 29 Ed. I. There was a trial to decide

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\* S. H. Coll., Vol. 7, p. 70.

whether John le Counter, William le Counter (murdered), and Margaret, widow of John, son of Geoffrey de Colton, had deprived Margaret, widow of John, son of Hugh, of a piece of land here, 60 feet long by 6 feet wide. William did not appear, and the Sheriff said he was dead. John and Margaret denied any injury to the plaintiff, and a jury found in their favour.\*

At the same assize (29 Ed. I.)† the Sheriff had been ordered to return into this court the appeal of John le Counter, of Colton, against Ralph Griffyn and Robert his brother, for the death of William le Counter, his brother, and to bid John le Counter prosecute his appeal in person, since it could not be settled in a lesser court than before the King or his justices itinerant; but the said John, being solemnly called on the first, second, third and fourth days did not appear. He is therefore to be arrested, with his sureties for the prosecution John “of the Knoll” (de Monte) (where?) of Colton, and Nicholas Fox, of Colton: the appeal is to proceed at the King’s suit: and the defendants, who also failed to appear, are to be arrested and produced. 32 Ed. I. (1304 A.D.) Richard, son of Henry the chaplain, recovers a rent of 10s. in Colton from William Griffyn and Alienor his wife, besides 22s. damages.

In the Feet of Fines (29 Ed. I.) is a final concord made at York in the quinzaine of St. Hilary (Jan<sup>r</sup>. 27, 1300), between

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\* P. 85, Vol. 7, S. H. C.

† Staffs. Hist. Coll., Vol. 7, p. 93.

WILLIAM LE FEVRE (the Smith), of  
 Colton, by ROBERT DE HAMPTON, } Complainant.  
 his attorney, and  
 WILLIAM, son of WILLIAM DE WOLES-  
 TON, by ROBERT DE LICHFIELD, his } Deforciant.  
 attorney

Concerning one messuage, 16 acres of land, and 4 acres of meadow, in Colton, which complainant acknowledged to belong to deforciant, and for this acknowledgment received from the deforciant the said premises to hold of him for the life of the complainant, rendering a nominal rent of one rose yearly, and performing to the chief lord of the fee the services appertaining; and, after the decease of the complainant, the said premises were to remain to William, son of the complainant, and to Felice, daughter of William de Woleston.

28 Ed. 1. Thomas, son of Alianor, of Colton, and Mabel his wife, not appearing to prosecute their suit against Robert, son of Henry de Colton, and others, it was dismissed; and their sureties, Robert de Hampton and John de Hampton, were “in misericordiâ.” The Pleas of 1307 (35 Ed. 1)\* show Alice, widow of John Griffyn, of Colton, pursuing Richard de Bishton for one-third of a messuage and 3 acres, in Colton; and Julia de Barton, of Colton, for one-third of a messuage; and Robert Wymer for one-third of a messuage; and William, son of John Griffyn, for one-third of a messuage, 60 acres

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\* S. H. C., Vol. 7, p. 182.

of wood, 20 acres of meadow, and 40 acres of moor, in Colton; which she claimed as dower. They did not appear, and the lands were in the King's hands. Alice is to have possession (m. 222, Pleas). In 27, Ed. 1, Robert de Colton was one of 4 knights summoned in a Blithfield suit\* (34 Ed. 1). The Sheriff had been ordered to distrain Juliana, the widow of Henry de Colton, and produce her, to state what right she claimed in 38 acres of land, 5 of meadow, 20 of wood, 3s. 4d. of rent, and the third part of a messuage and *mill* in Colton, Newlond, and Blithbury; which Robert, Henry de Colton's son, had granted to William, son of John le Mareschal, by a fine. She did not appear, and her goods only returned a nominal sum. The Sheriff is to produce her at the quindene of Easter (m. 72). The mill must have been that at Hamley.

Reverting to the Wasteney family, besides John, Sir William had by his wife Constance a son, Reginald, mentioned in 1308 A.D. and again in 1322 and 1333, as the father of William Wasteney.† We have very little doubt that the well-known Sir Edmond de Wasteney, who founded the Nottinghamshire branch of the family, was another of Sir William's sons.

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\* Staffs. Hist. Coll., Vol. 7, p. 54.

† Patent Rolls 14 Ed. 2. Trial brought by Henry de Colton against Wiliam son of Reginald de Wasteney and others, for tenements in Colton. Willemus fil Reginaldi de Wasteney de Colton, Henrico Hugin, &c. (5 Ed. 3, Gresley Chartulary).



In 1283 A.D. (11 Ed. 1) the P.M. Inquisition speaks of John le Marischal holding a wood in Colton jointly with John de Wasteneys; and 1289 A.D., there was an assize to decide "if William de Wasteneys, father of John, was seised as of fee, when he died, in seven virgates of land at Burton-sur-le-Wauz, which Ralph de Turville holds. Hugh le Despenser was called to warranty at Leicester. The Ridware Chartulary shows that Sir John was at Colton in 1282 and 1284 A.D., by his signature attesting deeds. In 1290 he was one of twelve knights chosen for an Elford suit, and was again acting similarly on a Pencrich trial three years later. (Staffs. Hist. Coll., vol. 6, p. 219.) The same year he is named elector of the "Pirehill Hundred" jury—and in 1295 A.D. was a juror for the Chilinton Manor cause. Evidently he must have often visited his Colton property. Sir John de Wastineys married Isabella Hay, of Acton, in Yorkshire; like his grandfather, he too claimed free warren over the Colton lands in 1293 A.D., and together with Edmond de Wasteneys, witnessed a deed between John de Dreggeton and Adam the Smith of Colton.\* In 1293, also, John de Wastineys was returned as holding a quarter of a fee at Osgarthorp (of Richard de Harecourt, deceased), valued at 100s. rental,† and with another John de Wastineys, acted as a juror in a plea concerning

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\* Gresley Chartulary.

† Escheat 26 Ed. 1. No. 46, Leicest.

Trentham Manor. Six years later the Patent Rolls contain an assize of novel disseisin between William “Le Younge Louerd” of Colton (*i.e.*, of “Little-Hay” Manor), and Sir John, touching tenements here. The same year finds William, the Smith of Colton, paying a half-mare for a writ “ad terminum.\*

On several occasions Sir John de Wastineys served as one of the jurors for the Cannock Chase boundaries, and those of Kinver Forest (v. S. H. Coll., &c.), (v. Staffs. Hist. Coll., vol. 7, p. 54), an office which was reserved for the principal men of the neighbourhood. He gave to Richard de Araz land in Threngeston; † and, with his wife Isabella, received grants from Alan, son of William de Threngeston, and from one Gilbert Pate, of Osgarthorp.‡ In 1301 A.D. (v. Plea Rolls), John de Wastineys sued John Griffyn to permit him to have common of pasture in Colton, of which Wm. Griffyn had unjustly deprived John de Wastineys his grandfather, whose heir he is: and he stated that Wm. de Wastineys was seised of common of pasture in 60 acres of wood in the vill of Colton, with all manner of cattle for the whole year, except at time of pannage (*i.e.*, from the feast of St. Michael to that of St. Martin) as belonging to his freehold in Colton; and from William the right descended to

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\* Salt. Library deeds.

† Gresley Chartulary.

‡ Staffs. Hist. Coll., vol. 7, p. 78,

one William, as son and heir, and from this William to John, who now sued, as son and heir. John Griffyn prayed a view, and the case was adjourned to the quindene of Mehmas.\* Sir John de Wasteneys was now returned by the Sheriff of Lincoln as holding land in capite, and otherwise, worth £40 a year†—equivalent to two knight's fees—and was therefore summoned to serve against the Scotch; the muster being appointed at Carlisle. He was likewise summoned for the county of Northampton. In further proof that he held the Leicestershire estate, we find (1304 A.D.) at York, Sir John de Wastineys, lord of Brassingburg, suing several people of Tonge and Bredon for feeding their swine on the acorns of his wood at Osgathorpe, which was called "Wastenays" wood. They replied by claiming a right of common there—but the verdict is not given us. (*Abbreviatio Placitorum* 32 Ed. 1.) The Scotch rolls of military service, 26-27 Ed. 1, state that he had letters of protection while serving in the retinue of Gilbert de Umfraville, Earl of Anegos; how close their intimacy was, we gather from a trial Sir John brought, when serving as executor for Gilbert de Umfraville, against the late Gilbert's steward, for his accounts of lands in Hameldon and Market Overton (34 Ed. 1). Four years previously the Sheriff had been ordered to levy a fine of 40s. from the lands and chattels of John de Wasteneys,

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\* Staffs. Hist. Coll., vol. 7, p. 78.

† Palgrave's Parliamentary Writs.

and Isabella his wife, and two others named, part of a sum of 40 marcs damages allowed to William de Chaddeworth for an unjust disseisin on their part. (Staffs. Hist. Coll., vol. 7, p. 99). The arms of his wife's family are said to be, "or, on a chief gules two mullets argent." Besides two daughters,\* Constance, whose name occurs in a deed dated 25 Ed. 3, and Elizabeth, wife of Sir John Cornwall, Kt., Sir John left three sons, (1) Sir William, married to Joan Bret, daughter of Sir John Bret, of Norfolk, and widow of Adam de Cailley. (2) Sir Philip,† who by Willielma his wife was father of Thomas de Wastineys‡ (1342 and 1375 A.D.), and (3) John, rector of Cranwicke in Norfolk, from 1321 to 1349 A.D.—a living which formed part of the

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\* Gresley Chartulary. Constancia, filia Dñi Johannis de Gastineys, militis, atornavi Wm. Clerke ad delib' seysinam Johanni de Gresley militi, et Johanne uxori ejus in messuag' in Brassingbury, quod habuerunt ex dono meo. 25 Ed. 3.

† Philippus de Gasteneys filius quondam Dñi Johannis de G., militis, &c. 2 Ed. 3 (Gresley Chartulary).

Gresley Chartulary, 1324 A.D. Wm. de Gastineys miles dominus de Brassingbury, Phillippo de Gastineys fratri meo, et Willielmæ uxori ejus unum croftum in Acton. This Acton is not to be confounded with Acton Trussell in Staffs.

‡ Thomas, son of the late Philip de Gasteneys, Kt., with Willielma his mother, widow of Philip his father, gives to Helen, who was the wife of Robert Rede, of Carleby, and to her daughter Joanna and their heirs, &c. ; done at Carleby (Gresley Chartulary) A.D. 1342.

(1375 A.D.) Thomas de Gasteneys makes over to Sir John Gresley, and his wife Joanna, all his rights in Seton and Spaldingmore.

dowry of Joan, his eldest brother's wife—in right of her former husband, Sir Adam de Cailley.\*

Repeated proof of the “unsettled” condition of the country appears in the Stafford Assize Roll of 21 Ed. 1.—William Griffyn, of Colton, had escaped from custody, and fled. He was suspected of many robberies, and was to be outlawed. His chattels were worth 47s., and he held land of which the year and waste was valued at 26s., for which the Sheriff answers.† John de Wasteneys afterwards appeared and made fine for the year and waste for 26s. 4d. (m. 23.) Thomas, son of Reyner de Colton, disputing with William, son of William, the smith, of Colton, outside the gate of John le Wasteneys, in the vill of Colton (*i.e.*, at Colton Hall), a quarrel arose; and Thomas struck William with a knife on the head, and killed him; he then fled immediately, and is to be outlawed. Being a clerk, it is added, he was not in a tything (m. 26), therefore others were not answerable to produce him.‡ William de

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\* Cranwick is spelt variously “Crannons,” “Cranehouse,” “Cranwes,” and “Cranwys.” The name is taken from the river “Wissey.” Thomas de Cailley had settled the manor of Cranwick on Michael de Cailley for life, and the third part in reversion after the death of Joan, then (9 Ed. 2) wife of Sir William de Wasteneys, and widow of Adam de Cailley. Bloomfield's “Norfolk,” v. 6, p. 143.

In 1313 Simon de Cayley was presented to the living of Denver, in Norfolk, by Sir William de Wasteneys.

† Staffs. Hist. Coll., vol. 6, p. 272.

‡ For a fuller explanation of this, see note on “View of Frankpledge.” (temp. Civil War).

Erdington, of Colton, was likewise to be outlawed for a burglary in the house of Nicholas, son of Richard de Colton. The gaol delivery roll of 34 Ed. 1, shows how Henry, at Asch, had feloniously killed Adam, son of John, son of Walter de Colton, in Colton. That (as before stated) William le Countour\* had been murdered in Colton by Ralph Griffyn and Robert his brother. Besides the death of John Bonel, in Colton, at the hands of William Fox. Thus, between 1270 A.D. and 1306 A.D., no less than six murders had been committed, five in the village itself, besides many robberies (!)—an appalling catalogue. A Royal pardon, dated Kemeseye, May 1, 1300 A.D., mentions further violence—"The king having ascertained, by the inquisition which the Sheriff and Coroners of Staffordshire caused to be made, that John, son of William le Parker, of Colton, arraigned for the death of Walter de Walshe, of Colton, slew the said Walter in self-defence, and not through malice prepense, pardons him for the said death.

Sir William, the next representative of the Was-teney's family, had certainly succeeded his father in 1312 A.D.; because William de Milton, of Oundel, then called him to warranty for a messuage and carucate of land in Oundel, claimed by Henry de Tychmersh in right of his wife Joan. Two years

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\* Wm. le COUNTER = the Arithmetician ?

"There is no Countere nor Clerk

Con him reken alle."

(m.s. Cott. Calig. A. 2, f. 110.)



later (v. Pleas, 9 Ed. 2) William Griffyn sued him for permission to grind his "demesne" corn "quit of multure" at the said William de Wasteneys's mill in Colton, as he used formerly to do (m. 114).\* Sir William had inherited estates and influence in five different counties, Lincolnshire, Staffs., Leicestershire, Northants, and Yorkshire; and was personally of an active, enterprising character. We find him serving in Scotland, under Edward I., during his father's lifetime. In 1295 A.D., he had been summoned to bear arms against the Welsh (owing to the rising Madoc headed when Caernarvon was taken), but while John de Wasteneys was one of the following of John Wake, William served in the retinue of Robert de Tateshall, another Lincolnshire magnate. †Later on, the Scotch roll of 1310 A.D. places him in that of John de Crumbewell. That he was not unknown at Ed. II.'s court, we should judge from the notice in the "*Collectanea Topographica*,"‡ of the knights who tilted at the great Stepney Tournament of 1309 A.D., where he sided with the Earl of Lancaster's party. Among the knights returned to attend at Westminster on May 30th, 1324 A.D., when Robert Bruce had invaded England, and laid waste the country up to the gates of York, we find both

\* Staffs. Hist. Coll., vol 9, p. 59.

† Vide Staffs. Hist. Col., vol. 8. Military service of Staffs. tenants.

‡ Coll. Topograph., p. 69, where his arms are thus described: "Sa," a lion ramp., arg. langued and collared gules."

William Wasteneys and Anselm Mareschal enrolled for their Colton Manors. Proof may be seen in the Parliamentary writs of 1332\* A.D., that he was summoned to assist the Sheriff of Lincolnshire in keeping the peace; and to appear at Burton-on-Trent, prepared to march on the king's service.

The following year he was ordered to raise two thousand soldiers in the county of Lincoln; probably the statement made in the memorandums of Burghersh (or Burwash), Bishop of Lincoln, that, when Charles the Fair, King of France, was threatening an invasion of England in 1324 A.D., Sir Robert de Herey and Sir William de Wasteneys were commissioned to raise the array in the parts of Lindsey (Lincolnshire), for the protection of those coasts, is but a further reference to the charge of the year preceding, entered here because the usual oaths were to be administered to them by Bishop Burghersh. Sir William was present at the Lincoln election in 1334, and was himself chosen to attend the Parliament at Westminster. In 1325 he took service under Thomas, Lord Wake of Lydell,† a nobleman nearly allied to the royal family by his marriage with Blanch Plantagenet, daughter of Henry, Earl of Lancaster. Lord Wake sent him across the seas in command of a body of troops, but the climate of Gascony brought on a disease of which he died very

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\* Palgrave's Parliamentary Writs.

† Thomas Lord Wake, of Lydell, was uncle to Joan Plantagenet, the fair maid of Kent, wife of the Black Prince.

suddenly, not long after his return to England, leaving behind him a numerous family of three sons and eight daughters, *vide* the deed quoted in the appendix from the Gresley Chartulary. The arms of Joan Bret, his wife, are “argent a bend gules billetee of the field.” Walter Chetwynd’s m.s. collections have preserved the following grant, dated 1308, A.D., “I, Sir William de Gastineys, Kt., have given to Reginald de Gastineys, my uncle, all my land in Caldwell, within the vill of Colton and without it.” This supplies a link in the pedigree. In 1319 A.D., Sir William granted a virgate of land here to John Torpenman (Patents, 12 Ed. 2). In 1311 A.D., he attested a deed of Anselm le Mareschal’s, and must have been, therefore, residing at Colton. About the same time Elias de Gresley made over to Sir William a considerable addition to his Osgarthorp estate. Two years after, he was sued by Robert de Hampton, for Colton tenements,\* and in 1320 A.D., conveyed to Robert de Bromley, clerk, certain lands here at “Wildurdeley”—the present Wilderly.† The Gresley Chartulary shows Sir William confirming to Walkelin, brother of William the chaplain, of Osgarthorp, the land which he had previously held under Sir John de Wasteneys; and there are a few other deeds besides, relating to his Lincolnshire and Yorkshire properties, with which we are not now so immediately concerned as with the following fines

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\* Patent Rolls, 12 Ed. 2.

† On the map, Nos. 719, 721, 722, 723, 724.

and pleas which affect Colton interests about this time.

#### FEET OF FINES.

Final concord made for entail in three weeks of Easter, 9 Ed. 2 (1316), between

JOHN TOK DE ANNESLEY . . . Complainant  
and

WILLIAM GRYFFEN and ALIANORA, his } Deforciant  
wife . . . . . }

Concerning the eighth part of the manor of Colton, save one bovat, and one acre of land, and three acres of moor in that manor, whereupon was plea, etc. Deforciant acknowledged the said eighth part to belong to complainant as the gift of deforciant, and for this acknowledgment, the complainant granted to them the said eighth part, to hold to deforciant of the chief lords of the fee by the services appertaining, for the lives of deforciant. Remainder\* (1st) to John, son of John de Honetoft, and Ermatrude, daughter of Master Robert de Bromley, and the heirs of her body; (2ndly) to Robert, son to William de Norton, and the heirs of his body; (3rdly) to Margery, daughter of the said Master Robert, and the heirs of her body; and in default the premises shall remain to Master Robert de Bromley.

#### FEET OF FINES.

Final concord made at Westminster in the octave

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\* We know elsewhere that Wm. Griffyn and Alianora had no issue, while in 1359 A.D. we again meet with this entail.

of St. John the Baptist, 11 Ed. 2 (July 1st, 1318 A.D.) between

ROBERT DE HAMPTON and ALICE,	} Complainants.
his wife, by ROBERT DE BOU-	
WOOD, his Attorney . . . .	

and

MASTER ROBERT DE BROMLEYE,	} Deforciant.
clerk, and FELICE,* his wife.	

Concerning the half of a virgate of land in Colton, whereof was plea, etc. Deforciant acknowledged the said land to belong to Robert de Hampton, and they remised and quit-claimed the same to complainants for ever, and for this acknowledgment received from them the sum of ten marks.

In 1321 A.D., R. de Hanbury, R. Hillary, and R. de Aston were appointed to take an assize of novel disseisin, which Henry de Colton had arraigned against William, son of Reginald de Wasteneys, and others for tenements here. The Patent Rolls of 1334 notice a similar suit brought by Richard Colet and his wife Sibilla against William Baret and others for property in Colton.

The Pleas of 11 Ed. 2 show William Griffyn, of Colton, suing Roger Hobet, of Colton, for  $2\frac{1}{2}$  acres here; and Roger and William his brother, jointly, for another single acre. In 1319 A.D., William Griffyn is found suing Robert Griffyn for a messuage in Colton; and Henry Colmon for 8 acres, besides

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\* Is not this the land named in a former fine? and Felicia the daughter of William, son of William de Wolestone? Half a virgate would about correspond to 16 acres.

one of meadow, in the same vill; in which they had no entry except by a demise which William Griffyn, his great grandfather, whose heir he is, had made to Roger Bonel, for a term which had expired; and he stated that the said William, his great grandfather, was seised of the tenements in demesne, as of fee, in the time of King Henry III., the king's grandfather, and from William the right descended to William, his son and heir; and from the said William to John, as his son and heir; and from John to William the plaintiff, as son and heir. Henry called to warranty Robert Griffyn, who is to be called for the quindene of Hillary. Robert stated that the messuage claimed was, at one time, in the seisin of one Roger de Huctesdon (Hixon); whom William Griffyn had called Roger Bonel; and the said William Griffyn had quit-claimed to the said Roger, and his heirs, all right to it—and he produced the deed. William Griffyn denied that his ancestor had executed that deed, and appealed to a jury, which is to be summoned. Meanwhile the king's clerk is to retain the deed (m. 117. Staffs. Hist. Coll., vol. 9, p. 73). This is a valuable confirmation of the Griffyn pedigree. The same year, 1319 A.D., William Gerard de Styvington, and Dionysia his wife, sued Adam le Smith, of Colton, for 4 acres here, which they claimed to hold for the life of Dionysia, by a demise which Henry, son of Hugh de Colton, made to the said Dionysia and John de Morhay, her first husband, and in which Adam le Smith had no entry, except by Thomas le Ridere, of



Rugeley, to whom John de Morhay had demised it, and to which, during his lifetime, she could not object. Adam prayed a view (m. 434). The Pleas of 9 Ed. 2, show John, son of William Gilbert, of Colton, stated to be of full age, suing Richard le Holehurst, and Alice his wife, for a messuage, 15 acres of land, and one acre of meadow, in Colton. They did not appear, etc. [This, apparently, is the third mention of that half-virgate granted to Gilbert de Mavesyn by his brother Nicholas.] In 18 Ed. 2 (1325 A.D.), Henry, son of Robert, son of Hugh de Colton, sued William de Chetwynde for a messuage, 4 acres of land, and two acres of waste here; and Richard Lyne, and Margaret his wife, for 7 acres of land; and William, son of Adam le Smith for 4 acres; and Nicolaa, daughter of Hugh le Bole, of Colton, for 10 acres; and William Maynard for one acre; and William, son of Ralph del Newlond, for one acre; and Geoffrey at Asche for one acre; and Stephen, son of William Eddesone, for  $1\frac{1}{2}$  acres in Colton, which he claimed as his right and inheritance. None of the defendants appeared. The whole  $31\frac{1}{2}$  acres are to be taken into the king's hands, and they summoned for the octaves of St. Martin (m. 186, d.) We gather from the Pleas of 13 Ed. 2 (1320 A.D.), that Henry le Rowe, of Blithbury, William, son of Ralph of the Newlands, Reginald le Wasteneys of Colton, Robert, son of John, son of Walter de Colton, and Henry de Caldwell, were attached at the suit of Thomas le Rowe, of Blithbury, for insulting, wounding, and ill-treating him at

Colton, on the Friday before St. James's Day (11 Ed. 2), and for reaping forcibly his corn and siligin (a kind of wheat), and carrying it away, to the value of 60s., for which he claimed 10 marks damages. They denied the trespass and injury, appealing to a jury. Thus far we have reserved all notice of disputes affecting Anselm le Mareschal's Colton interests, which will be more easily understood if they are taken collectively. After the account of the direct male line of de Wasteney is completed. The great length of Edward III.'s reign makes arrangement the more difficult. It will, perhaps, be most convenient to begin with pleas affecting Colton generally, passing on to Sir Thomas de Wasteney, and the suits involving his interests, especially those in Colton, before we collect what is known about Anselm le Mareschal and his predecessors.

The first trial was that of 4 Ed. 3 (1331 A.D.)\* when Henry de Colton sued William Attewode, parson of the church of the blessed Mary the Virgin, in Colton, for an acre of land here: the tenements had already been taken into the King's hands, by William's default. Henry is therefore to recover seisin (m. 356). In 1334 A.D., William Griffyn indicted William, son of Thomas de Kerdyf (Cardiff) chaplain, Robert, John, Robert (*sic*) and Richard, his brothers, for beating and injuring him at Colton (6 Ed. 3), on the Thursday after the Conception,

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\* Staffs. Hist. Coll., vol. 11, p. 18.

DESCENT OF THE DE COLTONS,  
JOINT OWNERS OF THE "CHURCH" MANOR (OTHERWISE "MARESCHALS" MANOR).

— De Colton

Thomas de Colton = Matilda de Colton  
(c. 1175)

Hugh (1) de Colton,  
s. of Tho. and Matilda  
infr. æt. 1203. 1230-1257 A.D.

Gerald de Colton  
c. 1160 A.D. (mort. 1203 A.D.)

Alice de Colton = William Griffyn (1203 A.D.)

William, s. of Wm. Griffyn = Avise  
(see Griffyn descent)

Sir Henry de Colton = Juliana, his wife  
1271, 1284-1300 (superst. 1306 A.D.)  
s. of Hugh

\*Hugh (2), s. of Hugh  
(1240 A.D.)

John de Colton = Margery  
s. of Hugh.  
1239-1303

Rob. de Colton = Avise, widow  
s. of Hugh (1290)

Margery,  
d. of Robert

Sir Robert de Colton = Sibell (d. of Ric. de Puys?)  
(Kt. 27 Ed. 1) 1300 6 Ed. 3  
(son of Henry)

Avise  
1295 A.D.  
(v. deed, p. 312)

William = Margaret  
son of 1343?  
Robert de C.  
1322-1331 A.D.

Juliana = John Stykebuk  
d. of Margery  
1347-51 A.D.  
of Colton

\* (Ridware Charters, c. 1240.) Signis with Hugh his father, v. p. 294-5, vol. 16, Staffs. Hist. Coll. It is possible that Sir Henry de Colton may have been the son of Hugh (2), not Hugh (1), but as Hugh (1) was under age in 1203 we prefer the latter—assuming that Hugh (2) was longlived like (K.H. 3) his contemporary.



besides taking his goods and chattels, linen, woollen clothes and money, to the value of £100. They deny the trespass and injury, and appeal to a jury (m. 107). Isabella, widow of William de Chetwynd, sues Wm. Griffyn, at York, (10 and 11 Ed. 3), amongst other and larger interests elsewhere, for  $\frac{1}{3}$ rd of 4 acres here, which she recovered. The following year Malcolm de Wasteneys calls upon John Bagot to acquit him of the service which Thomas de Wasteneys exacted for the freehold he held of the said John in Colton (13 Ed. 3)\* There was a trial at Lichfield, whether Adam de Chetewynd, and others, had unjustly deprived Robert, son of John, son of Nicholas le Messenger, of a messuage, and 40 acres of land, in Colton and Blithfield; the question turned on the authenticity of a deed of gift from Henry, son of John de Messenger, the brother of the said Robert. It was to be decided at Stafford; Richard, lord of Blithfield, William Griffyn of Colton, Robert de Hampton, Wm. Cradok of Admaston, and John Andrew of Lee, being the witnesses summoned to appear (m. 2).† In 14 Ed. III., John de Wyvereston, and Eva his wife, sued Adam son of Adam de Chetewynde, and William Wymar, for the above-named  $4\frac{1}{2}$  acres, and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  acres of meadow here, as Eva's right, and they recovered seisin (m. 347). 16 Ed. 3, John de Wyverston and Eva regained 2 acres of meadow, in

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\* Staffs. Hist. Coll., vol. 11, p. 98.

† Staffs. Hist. Coll., vol. 11, p. 105.

Colton, from William de Colton and Margaret his wife, also by default. The next year, Emma, widow of Richard Hervey, sues John Hervey of Colton, for  $\frac{1}{3}$ rd of a messuage, 20 acres of land, and 2 acres of meadow here, which she claimed as dower. Failing John's appearance, the land is to be taken into the King's hands. 17 Ed. 3,\* Simon de Ruggeleye brought an action against John, son of Juliana of Colton, William le Counter, and John Stykkebukke of Colton, for fishing "vi et armis" in his several fisheries at Rugeleye, and taking fish to the value of 100s.; they are to be arrested and produced. The following year the case is continued with fuller details; but the fish, pike, bream, perch, roach, tench, and eels, are said to have been taken from his fishpond at Rugeleye; they denied it, appealing to a jury. A postscript states that the process was continued till 19 Ed. 3, when it was transferred by writ of "nisi prius" to be held at Stafford before Roger Hillary, with whom was associated Richard de la Pole; when the jury brought in both defendants guilty of the trespass, and they gave damages for 100s. This case illustrates the law's delay, as also the value of stewponds, in those days. The Wiverston (Wolston) interest comes again into court, 22 Ed. 3, when Eva,† widow of John de Wivereston, and Joan her sister, with Roger de Fenton, chaplain, were charged with

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\* Staffs. Hist. Coll., vol. 12, pp. 22, 30.

† Staffs. Hist. Coll., vol. 12. p. 91.



depriving Richard, son of Thomas de Blythfield, of a messuage, 60 acres of land, and one of meadow, in Admaston, Colton, Newton and Blithfield (m. 100); Eva answered as tenant, but said there were only 20 acres. A trial of 24 Ed. III. (1351 A.D.), valuable as fixing the death of Thomas de Wastineys, was brought by John Stykkebuk of Colton, and Juliana, d. of Margery, d. of Robert, son of Hugh de Colton, against Joan, widow of Thomas Gastineys, for a messuage, and 2 acres of land here; and they sued Ralph Bagot for  $4\frac{1}{2}$  acres here; and Alianor, d. of Richard Lyne, for 3 acres; and Dïonysia Maynard for  $1\frac{1}{2}$  acres; and William "le Blessed" for 2 acres; and William Godwyn, chaplain, for 1 acre; and Geoffrey Colmon for 2 acres of meadow; and Thomas Dymmok, and Margery his wife, for 2 acres; and Nicholas Bote for 1 acre; and John de Bromley for 3 acres of land, and 1 of meadow; and John, son of William le Smyth of Colton, for  $2\frac{1}{2}$  acres; and John Hobet for an acre; and John, son of John le Baxtere, for an acre; and John Griffyn for an acre of land, and 1 of meadow; and John, son of Adam Atte Asche, for an acre; and John, son of Henry le Turnour, for an acre, in the same vill. After various delays, and excuses about the difficulty of the journey, the defendants finally made defaults, and were amerced, the plaintiffs recovering possession. The case is the more valuable for showing how many scattered strips of land went to form a simple virgate, the whole amount being but  $31\frac{1}{2}$  acres.

Colton Mill, on the Trent, was the subject of a plea which John de Gresleye, Kt., and Joan his wife, brought against Henry de Ruggeleye in 25 Ed. III., because the service due for it had not been paid during the two past years. The claim, we see, is in right of his wife, who was the widow of Sir Thomas de Wastineys. On this subject there will be more to be said. 32 Ed. III. (1359 A.D.), the same Sir John Gresleye and Joan sued Richard, son of Robert de Colton, chaplain, for a messuage here, as Joan's right, and on the same grounds "*quare cessavit per biennium.*" The Trinity term Plea Roll shows that the King's writ was sent to the justices, on the complaint of John de Holt, son of Margery, daughter and heir of Ermentrude, who was daughter of Master Robert de Bromleye, for a return into court of the transcript of the fine levied 9 Ed. II. (v. *supra*) between John Tok of Annesleye, and Wm. Griffyn and Alianora his wife, about one-eighth of Colton (Church) Manor, by which it had been entailed on William and Alianor for their lives; with remainder to John, son of John de Honetoft, and Ermentrude, daughter of Magister Robert de Bromleye, and Ermentrude's issue; failing them, then to Robert, son of William Norton, and his issue; failing such to Margery, daughter of Robt. de Bromleye, and her issue; and failing them to Robert de Bromleye and his heirs—and John de Holt stated that William and Alianora, and John, son of John de Honetoft, and Ermentrude, together with Margery her daughter and heir, were all dead;

and that William le Clerk of Colton had entered on 14 acres of land ; and one John Griffyn of Colton into 2 acres, which were parcels of the said eighth part of the manor, and held them contrary to the tenor of the fine. They are to come and show cause why John de Holt, son of Margery, the kinsman and heir of Ermentrude, should not have possession of them (M. 46) (Staffs. Hist. Coll., vol. 12, p. 163.) They came and declared that the part held by them was no portion of the  $\frac{1}{8}$ th which fell under the fine of 9 Ed. II. (a jury was to be summoned). The next year there occurs a trial whether John Wymer, of Colton, had unjustly taken from Katrine, wife of Thomas Garlaund, 6 acres in Colton ; a verdict was given for Thomas and Katrine. Michaelmas term this same year, John Wymer, of Colton, was charged by William de Pype, for forcibly taking at Colton, 4 cows and 2 oxen, worth 50s., belonging to him ; John did not come into court, nor again in 34 Ed. III. Two years after, William de Hanleye, lately parson of Colton, brings a plea against William le Clerk, of Colton, to render him a reasonable account for the time when he was his bailiff in Colton ; Wm. le Clerk did not appear. 40 Ed. III., one Roger Walteres, and Joan his wife, sought to recover from Adam Prentys, of Ruggeleye,  $\frac{1}{3}$ rd of a messuage, a carucate of land, and 40d. of rent in Colton, as Joan's dower of the grant of Thomas de Stalbrook, her former husband. Adam prayed a view (M. 400 d). In 45 Ed. III., this claim was repeated, with a similar result. Brought a third

time into court, Adam pleaded that the tenement contained only a messuage, 20 acres of land, and 4 of meadow, and that Thomas de Stalbrook had given it to Richard son of William de Careswalle, with a clause of warranty, and as representing Richard, he called to warranty William, son and heir of Thomas de Stalbrook (M. 464 d). 51 Ed. III., Robert de Stretton, clerk, sued Nicholas Verdon of Colton, for taking his goods, forcibly, from Wolseley, to the value of 100s. He did not come, and was to be arrested. There was a connection by marriage (v. pedigree) between the Griffyns and the de Verdons of Biddulph, in a former reign.

Sir Thomas de Wasteneys, the eldest son and heir of Sir William, was not yet of age when his father died, which at once gave rise to a difficulty respecting his wardship and marriage: the latter being claimed by Lord Stafford, of whom he held Colton Manor. How this claim was adjusted we are unable to say. Thomas certainly appealed to Lord Wake, his father's friend and Lincolnshire patron, to interfere; and it can be proved that his marriage with Joanna, daughter of Sir John Toly, of Wymondham, soon took place, for their names occur together in a Colton deed of 1339 A.D. Joanna seems to have been a woman of very strong character, whose business powers "told" on the future of her husband's family and of the village, especially in that double marriage alliance, which merged two Colton properties in the "Gresley" line. Thomas de Wastineys was quite as distinguished a soldier as his father; in 1334 A.D.

he had a general pardon for good service while with the King in Scotland. In 1335 A.D. a writ of summons to Monsieur Thomas de Wastenays and other Lincolnshire tenants, directs them to be at Rokesburgh in February, with horses and arms. He had letters of protection the next year, while serving in the retinue of John de Colleville. The French roll of 16 Ed. 3 (1342 A.D.) names him when about to cross the Channel, among the knightly following of the Warwickshire baron, Nicholas de Cantilupe. Three years later he was serving in France under Thomas de Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick. It is therefore all but certain that he fought at Crecy in 1346 A.D., for we find the Earl bears testimony to his good service during the war; the writ, which is dated at Calais (September 4, 20 Ed. 3) implying that he may have shared in the memorable siege.\*

Sir Thomas was involved in many of the lawsuits so inseparable from the holding of unenclosed lands in those days. Down to the year 1350 A.D. his name occurs continually in the Plea and Patent rolls. As early as 5 Ed. 3 †(1332 A.D.) the Master of Burton St. Lazar Hospital recovered from him the advowson of "Brassynburgh" church, claiming to have held the right of presentation since Henry III.'s reign (m. 322).

14 Ed. 3.—Sir Thomas, by attorney, sued

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\* For these references see Staffs. Hist. Coll., Vol. 8.

† Staffs. Hist. Coll., Vol. 11, p. 101.

Richard, son of Simon de Threngston, for a forcible rescue of his cattle, which Sir Thomas's servant had seized to satisfy a fine, imposed on Richard in the Court Leet of Sir Thomas, at that place (m. 136).<sup>\*</sup> The same year he appeared by his essoin against William de Knotton, and Agnes his wife, for causing waste and destruction in lands, houses and gardens which they held of him in Colton, and which William de Wasteneys, his father, had demised to them for the life of Agnes (m. 491). In 15 Ed. 3† we find him suing John, son of John le Counter, and William, son of Adam le Smyth, of Colton, for six acres here; they failed to appear, and the land was to be taken into the King's hands.‡ In A.D. 1340 the rector of Cranwick, John de Gastineys, referred to previously, entailed the Colton estate on Sir Thomas and his sons, by a collusive fine, as follows:—

Between THOMAS DE GASTENEYS, }  
 Chivaler, and JOAN, his wife . } Complainants.

and

JOHN DE GASTENEYS, Parson of the }  
 church of Cranwes, and RICHARD }  
 DE REDESDALE, of Knaptoft, de- } Deforcians.  
 forcians of Colton Manor . . }

Thomas acknowledged the said manor to belong to John, saving two messuages, 51 acres of land, and five acres of meadow, and for this acknowledgment

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<sup>\*</sup> S. H. C., Vol. 11, p. 105, and see Fine below.

† Vol. 11, p. 117, S. H. C.

‡ Staffs. Hist. Coll., Vol. 11, pp. 147-8.



John and Richard granted the said manor to Thomas and Joan for their lives; and they further granted that the messuages and lands which Robert Chamberleyne held for his life, and which William de Knotton and Agnes his wife held for the life of Agnes, and which William de la Beche held for his life, should remain to Thomas and Joan for their lives; and after their deaths the said manor shall remain to William, son of Thomas and Joan, and his issue; failing such, to John, brother of William, and his issue; and failing such, to Thomas, brother of John, and his issue; and failing such, to the right heirs of Thomas de Gastineys for ever.

In 17 Ed. 3 (1344 A.D.) Sir Thomas sued William, son of Adam le Smyth, of Colton, for a moiety of 6 acres in Colton; and William called to warranty Simon de Ruggeleye. [This was land near the mill probably?] The next year Sir Thomas charges the same William, son of Adam le Smyth, Robert Alinore, and Geoffrey at Asshe, with coming forcibly on the Monday after Michaelmas (15 Ed. 3) with swords, bows and arrows, and taking marl, clay and sand from his several soil at Colton, to the value of 100s, and for which he claimed £10 damages. William, appearing by attorney, denied the trespass, and appealed to a jury; the other defendants were to be attached (m. 144 D.). Continuing the Pleas, we find (21 Ed. 3) Sir Thomas and Joan his wife, with William their son, Richard de Redesdale, Nicholas "le Reve" (*i.e.*, de Cald-walle), Robert Stikkebuk, William Stickbukke, John

Dawkines-son (Dawson), Robert Chedle, Robert le Scolemaster\*, and John Stub, accused of depriving Alianor Griffyn of the eighth part of 4 acres of pasture in Colton.† The jury found they had done so illegally, excepting William, son of Sir Thomas, and they assessed her damages at 40s. (m. 102).

In 1326 A.D.‡ the Fishery rights had been the cause of a serious assault committed by the people of Colton, when Adam de Rugeley appeared against William Griffyn, of Colton, Robert, son of Walter, Stephen de Colton, John his son, and three more named, accusing them of having come “*vi et armis*” to Rugeley, with swords, bows and arrows, and violently taken from him nets, and other machines for catching fish, to the value of 100s., and of having beaten his servants, William Philip and Adam atte Goter. The two first appeared, and denied the trespass, appealing to a jury; the others were to be produced by the Sheriff. We have further proof soon after how valuable the river rights were, when, twelve years later (11 Ed. 3) there was another trial, “Whether §Thomas de Wastineys and Adam de Ruggeley had unjustly disseised Roger, Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, of 10 acres of land in Ruggele. Geoffrey Cok, their bailiff, appeared for them, Thomas de Wastineys pleading that the land in dispute was soil covered

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\* Tutor of Sir Thomas's sons?

† Staffs. Hist. Coll., Vol. 12, p. 66.

‡ S. H. C., Vol. 9, p. 112.

§ S. H. C., Vol. 11, p. 79.

by the river Trente [was it part of the meadow so frequently overflowed now?], and that the “filum” or centre of the true course of that river was the boundary between Rugeley and Colton, and that 5 acres of the land were in Colton; also that William de Wastineys his father, whose heir he is, had died seised of them; and as for the other five, they were in Rugele, and that vill was of ancient demesne of the King, where no writ would run but the lesser writ of right. The Bishop\* replied that Ruggele Manor (to part of the demesne of which manor the land in question belonged) was given by King Richard I. to his predecessor, †Hugh Nonant, and that it was a free fee, sueable at common law. The jury decide for the Bishop, stating that the 10 acres are in Ruggeley

Two years later Sir Thomas must have been residing in Colton, for he witnessed the following lease of certain water rights on the banks of the Trent, at Hempe-Ryding, near Ashleyhaywood, from Bishop Roger to Robert de Mavesyn: “Domino Roberto Mauveysin, et Margarete uxori ejus, et heredibus, aquam nostram de Trente. cum solo in manerio nostro de Ruggeleye, videlicet de

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\* Bishop Roger de Norbury, 1322-1359 A.D.

† Rugeley Mr Eyton holds to have been an estate of “ancient escheat,” accruing to William the Conqueror by the forfeiture of the last Mercian Earl Edwin, a great part being forest land, part of Cannock Chase. King Richard I., to raise money for the Crusade, sold Cannock and Rugeley in 1190 A.D. to Bishop Hugh de Nonant (Staffs. Hist. Coll.).

\*‘Hempe-Ryding’ Over-ende, propinquior’ bosco domini Anselmi le Mareschal, qui vocatur ‘Ashley-haye’ juxta Trent, usque Ashleye Netherende (rent 3s. 2d. a year).” Another deed of Bishop Roger’s, of the same date, and containing a reference to the foregoing suit, grants “Simoni de Ruggeleye totam terram nostram in Ruggeleye, super quam cursus riparii de Trente decurrit, cum totâ aquâ et piscariâ ejusdem, et cum omnibus siccis placeis terre aquâ predictâ circumdatis, vocatis ‘le Holhues,’ videlicet a ‘Daywallesych’ in Trent usque ad ‘Fleteford,’† adeo integre sicut dicta terra jacet, et aqua desuper decurrit, et circumdat juxta terram Dominorum de Colton, cum omnibus pertinentiis suis, quas recuperavimus de Thomâ de Wastineys milite.”

In 19 Ed. 3 (1346 A.D.) Sir Thomas Gasteneys, Kt.,‡ and William, son of Robert de Wodecote, of Osgarthorp, were attached to answer the plea of John Toly, of Wymondham, that they, together with William de Hoghton, parson of the church of Colton, and William atte Beche, of Osgarthorp, had taken his goods and chattels at Osgarthorp, to the value of £10, on the Monday before the feast of St. Cedde, the Bishop (18 Ed. 3), namely, wheat, barley, oats, beans and peas, forage, hay, brass and

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\* “Hemp-Ryding” = one-third of a piece of land, set apart for growing hemp? A crop of hemp was always grown on the demesne land of a manor to supply ropes for agricultural uses.

[† Was “Fleteford,” the site of Colton Bridge, below the Mill?]

‡ Staffs. Hist. Coll., Vol. 14, p. 62.

wooden vessels, for which he claimed £200 as damages. The defendants, appearing by attorney, denied the injury and trespass, and appealed to a jury (m. 41 D.). The Plea rolls the same year (1345 A.D.) show Sir Thomas suing John Toly to render a reasonable account of the issues of lands held in soccage, of which the said John had custody during the minority of Sir Thomas de Gasteneys. John did not appear. (m. 234 D.) John Toly must have been one of his wife's relations; that he had been in charge of part of the Wasteneys property during Sir Thomas's minority throws some light perhaps upon the marriage; and John Toly's management of the trust, it seems, judging by these two lawsuits, had not proved above suspicion.

Among other grants, Sir Thomas had given land here we know to John de Pickstoke, and to Philip Turville, one of the Lichfield canons, the deed being witnessed by Malcolm de Wastineys, of Tixall, and others. His Osgarthorpe estate was assessed at only 2s. 6d. for one-sixteenth part of a knight's fee, when an aid was granted the King by Parliament A.D. 1340, for knighting his son Edward, "the Black Prince." Three years later (1343 A.D.) Willielma, wife of Philip de Wasteneys, added 16 messuages and as many bovates of land to his Seton property in Yorkshire.

In 1350 A.D. Sir Thomas witnessed a grant of the advowson of Blithfield, and 2 acres adjoining the churchyard. He died the same year. The name of his brother, John de Wasteneys, occurs in a con-



veyance for life from Sir Thomas and his wife. The other brother may be identical with the Stephen de \*Wastineys, of Brassingburgh, mentioned in the Gresley Chartulary, who married Joanna de Mortimer. Very probably the Isabella, daughter of Mons. Wm. de Wasteneys, Knight, who married Sir Robert de Jortz, Knight, of Burton (1325 A.D.), was one of their eight sisters. Thoroton states that when Sir Robert and Isabella left their land at Eperston to Sir John de Chetwind and others, Sir Thomas and Sir Hardolph de Wasteneys were among the witnesses (*vide* Thoroton's, Nottinghamshire). Sir Thomas's wife, Joan Toly, bore these arms "on a field argent 3 cinquefoils sable." The Wasteneys arms, as here represented, are "sable, a lion rampant argent, collared and langued gules."



It is remarkable that his three sons, William, John and Thomas, died childless, thereby defeating every

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\* Joanna de Mortuomari quondam uxor Stephani de Wasteneys de Brassingburg.



DE WASTINEYS, OR DE GASTINEYS,  
OF  
COLTON, BRASSINGBURY, CARLEBY, OSGAETHORPE, &c.

Geoffrey (de Gastineys)  
1086 A.D.

— de Gastineys

Sir William de W. = Alice de Acton (?)  
c. 1120-1166 A.D.

N.B. Elizabeth wife of Sir John Cornwall of Lincol was d. of Sir John Wastineys of Dindle (Cousin: Mrs Baldwin Childs)

Agatha = Robert de W. (2)  
1165, 1191 A.D.

Josceus de W.  
1202-1213 A.D.

Josceus, fil Joscei

\*Sir Philip de W. = Amphelis 2nd d. and coheiress of Robt. Fitz Walter and Dina

Sir William de W. = Margaret  
1224-1260 (?)

Sir William de W. = Constance  
c. 1260-1290 A.D.

Stephen de W.  
1242-1276 A.D.

Reginald de W.  
1308-1326

Sir John de W. = Isabella Hay  
1282-1309

Sir Edmund de W. (?)  
(founder of Notts line)  
1295-1330 A.D.

William de W.  
1332 A.D.

John de W.  
Parson of Cranwick 1321-1349

Sir William de W. = Joanna Bret

Elizabeth = Sir John Cornwall, Kt.

Philip de W. = Willelma  
1324 | 1343 A.D.

John  
1346

Stephen de W. = Joanna  
1335

Sir Thomas de W. = Joan Toly = Sir John de Gresley  
under age 1339 (c. 1364 A.D.)

Isabella = Sir Rob. de Jortz daughters

Thomas de W.  
1342 A.D.

Wm. de W.  
Ob. S.P.

John de W.  
Ob. S.P.

Thomasine de W. = (1) Sir Nicholas Gresley (1365 A.D.)  
1365-1390 | (2) Sir Hamon de Peshall (1395 A.D.)  
Sir Thomas de Greslev, Kt.

\* I hold that Sir Philip was the son (not the brother) of Sir William second of the name.



effort made by entailing the land to perpetuate the family greatness. The estates descended to Thomasine, their sister, and the ancient name of De Wastineys died out in the main (*i.e.*, the Colton) line.

The following roll of the Steward's receipts and expenditure for the De Wastenys Colton Estate, found among the Ingestre papers, and translated almost entirely by Bishop Hobhouse, is sufficiently curious to deserve insertion here at length, as follows:—

FROM THE INGESTRE DEEDS.

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Account roll of John\* de Caldewell, Steward of the De Wasteneyst† Colton property, from the eve of St. Michael, in 35th Ed. 3rd, to the same day in 36th Ed. 3rd inclusive (1362-3 A.D.)

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Assessed or  
rack rent of  
the  
Wasteney's  
demesne.

He answers for 41s. 7d. for the half-year ending at Michaelmas,  
and for 16s. 7d. rent of the burgesses ‡ (de redditu burgensium) for the same term ;  
23s. 3d. rent paid by the serfs (nativorum) (who were now compounding in money for their labour).  
9d. rent of freeman from Michaelmas to Xmas.  
8d. from the price of some arrows.

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\* v. Pleas, 1348 A.D.

† It must be remembered that Sir John Gresley was now Lord of Colton, in right of Joan his wife, widow of Sir Thomas de Wasteney's. The marriage had taken place not later than 1352 A.D. (v. Ingestre deed).

‡ *i.e.*, Householders?

\*7s. 8d. from rents of freemen on the land of William Griffyn for the year.

\*24s. for rents of tenants of the 'late' Anselm le Mareschal for the year.

£4 0s. 3d., rents of the De Wasteneys demesne paid at Lady Day, received by tally of Adam Nicholes.

34s. rents of demesne at St. John Baptist's day, by tally from the same Adam Nicholes.

\*Two more returns (lesser) of Anselm le Mareschal's and William Griffyn's land.

The whole thus far amounting to £13 11s. for the Wasteneys and Gresley Colton property, inclusive of the Church Manor.

“Life Holds”  
in the year  
not demesne.

—————  
Total, 59s. 7d.  
—————

Tenants at  
Will.

Rents amounting to 15s 11d. for Michaelmas term (and for term ending at Lady Day through Adam Nicholes) total, 15s. 11d.  
—————

“Firmes”  
(i.e., leases).

15s at Michaelmas (in the year 35 Ed. 3) which I received of John Eddison and 6s. received from a lease at Michaelmas—let to William Penne (not the rector of Colton of that name, but the witness to a Gresley deed of 1379 A.D.).  
—————

By  
Sale of Stock  
and Crops.

16s. received from the sale of 2 bulls, and 5s. 6d. for a swan.

3s. for the sale of 1 qr. and 5 bushels of oats.

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\* In 1364 A.D. John de Gresley and Joan bought John Luterel's life interest in the de Morley holding here, formerly le Mareschal's. They seem from these entries to have rented other parts of the Church Manor.

“Exitiis  
Manerii” (*i.e.*,  
accruing to  
the lord from  
the Manor).

5s. 6d. for various herbage and pastures sold for this year.

12d. from Alice Basset for the rent of her cottage paid at Michaelmas.

¼d. (nominal) rent of land at *Sondyford* from Adam Nicholes, and 7d. from Robert de Gayton; rent for one acre \**“super le Holm”* et super Littlehill (Little-hill); 7d. of Thomas le Smyth for *“Oakacre”*; 22d. received of Richard de Ridware for one acre of land in †Haselhurst, and for one acre in Pirchfield (modern Parchfield), and 1d. of John de Caldwell for a piece of land in ‡Senetoft; 3d. from Richard Atte Priours for ½ an acre of land in Wyndmillfield, § and 1 piece of land in the Crofts; 2s. received of John Palfreyman for 3 acres of land in Homeley and Trentfield, || and 8d. of Nicholas le Prechour for 1 acre in Homeley, and 21d. received of Simon Nichol for 6 acres of land in Millwardefield for Michaelmas term, and 1d. received of William Atte Broke for a piece of land in Wilderley.

¶ *“Kingston”*  
rents of assize.

Amounting to £4 4s. received.

For herbage at Morton, 4s. Here follow 6s. 8d. for rent of the mill there, and sundry other entries; 4s. received from Wm. de Gresley for parcels of meadow (grass), &c., and from Richard de Hampton, and 10s. 4d. from Nicholas le Prechour.

*Sum total, £33 18s. 7d.*

\* Still *“The Holms.”*

† Near the mill on the Trent.

‡ Modern *“Sentaff.”*

§ Is this the modern *“Wilmer”* field?

|| Part of Bellamore land and L.N.W.R.

¶ Entered here because John de Gresley was Lord of Kingston, and the steward was managing the Gresley estates in this neighbourhood.

“Allowances”  
asked for by  
the Steward.  
Outgoings.

For the rent of Master Hugh de Bishton, not paid. “Quia ignoratur ubi levare potest” (he, the steward, can’t find any property to distrain upon).

Abatements to the “heirs” of Eva de Chetwynd 3¼d., quia tertia pars prædictæ Eve remanet in manibus domini (de Gresley); 8d. owing for rent of Robert de Bromley; Richard Wymar’s tenement was vacant, and no rent had therefore been received for it, nor for Geoffrey Colman’s tenement, vacant and in the lord’s hands, John Stykebuk’s rent, John Sandey’s rent for land whose situation he doesn’t know (nescit ubi terra jacet!), and 18d. rent due from Nicholas le Prechour\* at Michaelmas; 12d. rent due from William Stykebuk, not paid because Petronilla, the baxter (the baker), has that land in exchange (excambio) for other land; 15d. rent due from John le Palfreyman for land in the lord’s hands; and 1d. from William, son of Richard, for land standing vacant and now let to Roger Swan; and 2d. rent due from Thomas le Millward, of Blythefield; and 4s. for rent from William Stykebuk, due at the Annunciation, for land in the lord’s hands, &c.

Sum, 8s. 11¼d.

“Forinseca”  
(foreign  
expenses).

Paid to John Godhale for fencing round the Park,† 7s. 6d.

For expenses of the lord, when at Colton, amount uncertain (20d. apparently).

Paid John Palfreyman, my lord’s servant, at the command of my lady,‡ 3s in part payment of

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\* He occurs again in one of the Plea rolls.

† The “Old” Park, beyond Stockwell Heath.

‡ *i.e.*, Joanna, daughter of Sir John Toly, of Wymondham, and widow of Sir Thomas de Wasteneys, re-married to Sir John Gresley.



his wages ; and to Nicholas le Prechour for one crou (or crown) bought of him at the command of my lord and my lady, 40d.  
 Sum, 13s. 10d.

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For  
 Threshing.

Paid by the job for 27 qrs. 5 bushels of corn, 5s. 4d. at 7d. for 3 qrs. Paid for feeding the men whilst threshing 3 qrs. 7 bushels of corn, 8d. Paid for threshing 7 qrs. 5 bushels "mixtilionis" (some mixture of corn) by the job, 17d. For threshing 4 qrs. 7 bushels of peas, 9d. (at 2d. a quarter). For 10 qrs. 1 bushel of oats, 12d.  
 Sum, 9s. 3d.

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Emptio bladi.  
 Liberatio  
 Denariorum.

Purchase of grain for some emergency, 5s.  
 Payment to the lord in cash, £4 12s. 3d., according to 3 tallies ; and a further sum of £25 17s. 7d., according to 6 tallies.  
 Sum, £30 9s. 10d.

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Farming  
 Account.

He answers for 42 qrs. of wheat, received from his lord's grange by tally from Robert le Bailley, 27 qrs. 5 bushels of which were threshed by the job, and 3 qrs. 7 bushels were used for the servants for home consumption. Some he gave to Robert le Bailley for sowing (*i.e.*, 4 qrs.) by tally, and to Geoffrey, the butler of Drakelow,\* 35 qrs. by 3 tallies, and other allowances he made to Robert le Bailley ; and to John le Hudel, the bailley, by my lady's gift, 2 bushels ; and to Adam Nichol 2 bushels by tally, &c. (besides several large quantities to Robert le Bailley for the free servants).

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\* Sir John de Gresley's home.

2 bushels of oats partly consumed in the fodder of the horses of Richard Baskerville, by command of my lord and my lady; and 2 bushels for the horses of Robert le Nolkes (?), by command of my lady; and<sup>1</sup> some to Robert le Bailley *for feeding the swans*; and 1 qr. 5 bushels he sold.

1½ qrs. of multure received by purchase by tally with the miller; and 1 pair of gloves he received from Eva de Chetwynd,\* and handed them to my lady.

Rents collected by John de Caldewell for John de Gresley, Lord of Kingston, £4 10s. (assessed rents).

— — —

One or two cancelled items have been inserted here, since they affected the sum total very slightly. The original roll was a long, narrow strip of thin parchment, about five inches wide, neatly written. It probably perished with the other Colton deeds given in the appendix when the steward's house at Ingestre was burnt down—for the deeds had been returned to the agent shortly before the fire.

The entail of the Colton estate on Sir Thomas de Gastineys and Joan for life, with remainder to his sons, William, John, and Thomas, and their issue, involves some enquiry into their history, although two of them at least did not long survive their father: and none of the three had children. The fishery law-suit of 1348 A.D. mentioned William, the

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\* Eva de Chetwynd means here not the well-known Eva de Oswaldstre herself, for she had been dead some years, but those who held the land in Colton, which was associated still with her name (v. above "the heirs" of Eva de Chetwynd in this very roll).

eldest; John occurs with his father in a trial the same year, touching Sir Thomas's lands, of which we shall speak later; and in 1367 William and Thomas are jointly sued by Sir John de Gresley; while the Pleas\* of 37-8 Ed. 3 record William's action against John de Steventon for causing waste and destruction in houses and gardens in Colton and Admaston. It appears that he had let to John for a term of twenty years, two messuages and four gardens, and John de Stevinton had pulled down a hall (aulam) worth 4 marcs, a grange worth 5 marcs, a bakehouse worth 40s., an ox-stall worth 20s., besides cutting down and selling twenty apple trees each worth 3s., and twelve pear trees each worth 2s. The sheriff was therefore ordered to proceed in person, and, on the oath of a jury, to assess the amount of damage, and to return the inquisition into court at Hillary term. [A postscript shows this was not done till Easter, 40 Ed. 3.] (m. 176 d.) The other trial of 37 Ed. 3† had been a charge of John de Gresley against William and Thomas Wastineys for coming "vi et armis" to his aery at Ruggeleye, with their man Peter, William's servant, and Robert By-the-Water of Ruggeleye, and taking four swans, worth £10. None of them appeared. The sheriff was, therefore, ordered to distrain William Wastneys, who had found bail, and to arrest the others and produce them next term.

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\* Staffs. Hist. Coll., Vol. 13, p. 46.

† Staffs. Hist. Coll., Vol. 13, p. 31.

(m. 222 d.) Comparing this demand with John de Caldwell's roll, the damages appear to be grossly exaggerated. The steward then received 5s. 6d. for the sale of a swan; now, only a year later, £10 are claimed. It must have been done with a view to their being taxed in court. On the other hand the two de Wasteneyes may have thought themselves fairly entitled to swans from their own father's aery; but the Colton manor, save for the small portion named in the previous suit, which had passed to William Wasteneyes, was the property of their mother Joan, who had taken a second husband, Sir John de Gresley. It was no unusual practice, Genl. Wrottesley states, to convey an estate for life to a wife, for it saved the waste and destruction caused by the sale of the custody to the highest bidder, as was frequently done in the case of a minority; whilst in troubled times it was a precaution, very possibly, against immediate forfeiture. The valuable series of Gresley Charters, recently edited by Mr. Jeayes (B.M.), establish this marriage by a lease of John de Gresley, Kt., and dame Joan his wife, to Nicholas de Gresley, "son of the said John," of lands at Norton, to hold to Nicholas and *Thomasine his wife, begotten of the said Joan* (1364 A.D. —38 Ed. 3) (French). Besides approximately dating the latter marriage, this deed clearly establishes the former, of which, though previously convinced, we needed proof. An Ingestre charter (*v.* appendix) shows that it had taken place not later than 1352 A.D.

The double tie, first between their mother and

Sir John de Gresley, and now between Nicholas his son, and their sister Thomasine, who, failing issue of her brothers, succeeded as the Wasteney's heiress, was very probably no small trial to William, Thomas, and John de Wasteney's; they were certainly at variance with their step-father (witness the Plea Rolls).

A lease dated 39 Ed. 3 (1366 A.D.) from Katherine Mavesyn to Rese Mavesyn, is witnessed by Ralph Bagot, *William Wasteney's*, Ralph de Hampton, &c. (*v.* Ridware deeds, Shaw's Staffs.).

Thus far we have carried down our account of the chief lords of Colton to the latter half of the fourteenth century; their extensive lands, here and elsewhere, had been entailed on Joan for her life; and were now about to pass altogether to the de Gresleys, who had already been acquiring other property in the place. Before entering, however, upon that part of the history of Colton, it will be necessary to recur to the Mareschal and Morley families, overlords of the de Coltons and Griffyns in the Church manor, and of the Mavesyns in the manor of Little-hay; and holders of some, though at present no very considerable interest here.

The le Mareschals take their name from Gilbert, the Marshal of King Henry I., and a baron by tenure; whose grandson William was Earl of Pembroke, in right of his wife Isabel, daughter and heiress of Strongbow. John, the nephew of Earl William, obtained a grant in fee of the office of Marshall of Ireland, in 9 King John: and six years

later was made Guardian of the Welsh Marches and Governor of "Oswestre" Castle. Standing firmly to the king's cause (as Dugdale tells us, *v.* Baronage, vol. 1, p. 599), during the great struggle with the Barons, he was entrusted with many high offices in different parts of England. He died 19 H. 3, leaving issue John, on whose death in 27 H. 3, William his son and heir succeeded to his lands. Unlike his predecessors, William sided with the barons against the crown; and, dying in 49 H. 3, left two sons, John and William, then both under age. John obtaining the royal pardon through William de Say, did homage for his father's estates, and among them for 17s. 11d. yearly rent from Colton ("Church" and Little Hay) manors, together with the advowson—the living then being worth twenty marks yearly to the rector, besides a small annual rent for the herbage of a wood in Colton, called Wylesdale; and another wood which he held in division with Sir John de Wastineys. It is noticeable that when John le Mareschal died, in 1282 A.D., he was seised, among other lands, of two-thirds of Messingham Manor (Lincolnshire)—the remaining third part being held in dower (*v.* Dugdale) by the wife of David, son of Griffyn. The P.M. inquisition, held at Colton, states "that John le Mareschal had here of rents of assize of free tenants 11s. 5d. yearly, and no more, because Elizabeth, wife of David, son of Griffyn, held the residue in dower before John's death." Who, then, was this Elizabeth? and was David, son of Griffyn, one of the same family of



Griffyns who held half this Colton Church Manor jointly with the de Coltons? William Mareschal served in Scotland, 34 Ed. 1; in 1305 A.D., he paid a marc for license of concord with Robert, son of Henry de Colton. about tenements in Colton, Newlands, and Blithbury (vol. 7, p. 139); and dying *c.* 7 Ed. 2 (1314) was followed by John his son, who attended Queen Isabel at that time into Scotland, but died only three years later himself, when Hawise his sister, fifteen years of age, and married to Robert de Morle, inherited both his office and estates—Robert doing fealty the same year, and having livery of her inheritance. Who, then, was the Avise de Mareschal, who certainly presented a rector to Colton Church in 1303, and again in 1305 A.D. ? (*v.* Lichfield “Liber Albus”). Must she not have been the widow of the John le Mareschal whose P.M. inquisition in 1284 A.D. we have previously quoted, and have held the presentation in right of dower? The name of le Mareschal had not, however, ceased to be associated with Colton; nor had the “Colton” Manor yet passed to Robert de Morle—for in 1311 A.D. we find one Anselm le Mareschal connected with this place (*v.* Gresley Chartulary). The name of Anselm had been borne by the youngest son of the great Earl of Pembroke already referred to; but how nearly the present Anselm was connected with his predecessors in Colton, needs fuller evidence to determine. Probably he was a cousin; and, as his coat of arms indicates by the label, the eldest of his branch of

the family ; he served in the Scotch war of 1310 A.D. for William le Mareschal (as Edmund Wastineys did for Piers Gaveston), and was summoned to Westminster in 1322 for his Colton manor—that is, we conclude, for the lands which Robert de Colton had recently made over to William Mareschal ; and in which a life interest, at least, had been left to Anselm. These lay, probably, near the Church and at Wilderly. His title to them, we find, did not pass unchallenged.

The Patent Rolls for 1313, referring to an action brought by Master Robert de Bromleigh and Felicia, his wife, against William le Wasteneys and Anselm le Mareschal, for pasture rights here, furnish additional proof, if it was needed, of the division of the lordship ; which is confirmed in 1316 A.D., when Anselm is expressly described as “joint lord of Colton Manor with Sir William,” and as possessing a few meadows here on the banks of the Trent, one of which, called Ash-ley-Hay, we have with some difficulty identified, as forming part of the southern boundary of the parish on Lord Lichfield’s land. In 1314 A.D., Hugh de Hampton sues Anselm le Mareschal and others for tenements here ; the following year, Reginald de Wastineys arraigned him for pasture rights in Colton ; indeed, Anselm le Mareschal’s tenure seems never to have been free from disputes and trials of one kind or another. In 1317, ADAM, of the Knol of Colton, brought a suit against ANSELM DE WILDERLY (*i.e.*, le Mareschal), for

common of pasture in Colton ; \* whilst in the next year, as we gather from the Feet of Fines, in the octaves of the Holy Trinity, an agreement was decided upon at Westminster between

ANSELM LE MARESCHAL . . . Complainant  
and

WILLIAM GERRARD DE STYVYNTON }  
and †DIONYSIA, his wife . . . } Deforciant

Concerning 10s. rent in Colton, which the deforciant acknowledged to belong to the complainant, and they quit claimed the same to him for ever, for which acknowledgment he gave them 40s.

In 15 Ed. 2 (1322 A.D.) William, ‡ son of Robert de Colton, sued Anselm le Mareschal for  $\frac{1}{8}$  of Colton Manor, by writ of formedon (de formâ donationis). Anselm appeared by Richard de Bermyngham, his attorney, and prayed a view—a day was given them at the octaves of Hillary.

The subsidy roll of 1327 A.D., given in the appendix, names Anselm as rated second to Robert de Little-hay, the leading contributor here ; and before William Gryffyn ; showing how entirely he had absorbed the position of the “ de Colton ” family.

In the Pleas 4 and 5 Ed. 3 (1331-2 A.D.).—As

\* Patent Rolls.

† Dionysia had been the wife of John de Morhay (*v.* deed, 12 Ed. 2), and had afterwards re-married.

‡ Staffs. Hist. Coll., vol. 9, p. 85. William de Colton probably claimed as heir of the original donor, on the failure of issue male to the Mareschal, who first acquired Colton Church Manor.

William, son of Robert de Colton, failed to appear, in prosecution of his action against Anselm, for  $\frac{1}{8}$  of Colton Manor (excepting two messuages, one bovat of land, one acre of pasture, one acre of wood, and 3s. of rent in the same manor), he and his sureties, John de Say and William Mody, are in mesericordiâ (m. 45). But the suit was again brought forward, for in 6 Ed. 3 (1333 A.D.) William, son of Robert, renewed his claim, when the excepted land is explained by this statement "which Richard de Puys (Wells), of Ruggele, had conveyed by fine to Robert, son of Henry de Colton, and Sibell his wife, and the heirs of their bodies, and which, after the deaths of the said Robert and Sibell, should descend to him as their son and heir."<sup>5</sup> Anselm appeared by attorney, and called to warranty William, son of Robert de Morleye, "*cousin and heir of William le Mareschal*," who was to be summoned in the courties of Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, York and Lincoln, but which William de Morleye is under age; and he prayed the suit might remain over until the full age of the said William. It is therefore adjourned "*sine die*."\*

The suit had stood over for eleven years already, William de Morley, the heir, being about two years old at this date (p. Ed. 3). We should suppose that Anselm le Mareschal (his cousin, probably, on the mother's side) had been enfeoffed for life in the over-lordship of the Colton Church Manor by the

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\* Staffs. Hist. Coll., Vol. 11, pp. 37-38.

former generation. Anselm had fought at the battle of Borough Bridge (when Edward II. defeated Lancaster and the barons), and was summoned to the Parliament held in A.D. 1324, for his estates in the three counties of Gloucester, Norfolk and Stafford. In 1325\* A.D. (18 Ed. 2) he appeared by attorney against Robert le lord of Littlehay, and Christiana his wife, in a plea of trespass. Afterwards he took service in Gascony, under Robert de Montalt.† We know nothing further of his public career until we find his name appearing second among the witnesses who subscribe a charter of King Edward III. to the burgesses of Haverford West (Pembrokeshire) in 1332 A.D. (Arch. Camb. January, 1879). The Patent Rolls mention a trial which he brought in 1340, against Richard de Blithfield and others, for Colton tenements, only to pave the way, as it seems, for another lawsuit two years later with the same persons, about Colton property not exceeding ten acres of land.

A French roll of 21 Ed. 3, 1347 A.D., preserves a writ to the Sheriff of Norfolk to cancel all demands upon Anselm Mareschal for men-at-arms, hobelars, or archers, because the said Anselm had been commissioned to guard the coast and the maritime towns,‡ which is sufficient evidence of his importance.

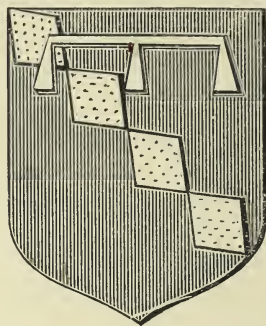
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\* Staffs. H. Coll., Vol. 10, p. 57.

† Palgrave's Parliamentary Writs.

‡ Staffs. Hist. Coll., Vol. 8, p. 90.

His arms are here represented as given on a seal attached to a deed executed at Colton in A.D. 1311,



being “gules a bend lozengy or, a label for difference.”\* To this agreement between Anselm and Thomas, son of William, son of Felicia, Sir William and Sir Edmond de Wasteneys were witnesses, as they were again to his grant to Henry, son of Hulle, dated the same year, 4 Ed. 2. Anselm’s death must have taken place circa 1360 A.D., for in the Steward’s roll he is described as “the late” Anselm le Mareschal.

Sir Robert de Morley, Kt. of Hengham, Swanton Morley, &c., having married Avice, daughter of William, and sister and heir of John le Mareschal (who herself held the office of Marshal of Ireland by descent), had livery of her lands, including the advowson and manor of Colton in 1317 A.D. He was a distinguished soldier, actively engaged in the Scotch wars of 1 Ed. 3, and being afterwards made admiral of the King’s fleet north of the Thames

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\* Gresley Chartulary.



defeated the French in a great sea fight near Sluse, in Flanders\* He fought at Cressy in 1346 A.D., and ten years later was appointed constable of the Tower of London, served in Parliament, &c., and died in France 34 Ed. 3 (1361 A.D.), having frequently presented to the living of Colton. His son William, then thirty years old, succeeded to this among his other and wider estates. Sir William had been knighted, and borne arms abroad (30 Ed. 3) during his father's lifetime; sat in Parliament from 38 Ed. 3 to 2 Ric. 2; and dying that year (1379 A.D.) was buried in the Austin Friars Church, Norwich. He left by Cicely his wife a son and heir, Thomas, 25 years of age. Like his father and grandfather, Sir Thomas de Morle served in France, and afterwards in Ireland, surviving to hold high office under King Henry V.; but our interest in the family ends when Sir Thomas confirmed the grant, which John Lutterell, of Boulby, had previously made in 1364 A.D. to Sir John de Gresley, and Joan his wife, of the Colton (Church) Manor rights. These John Lutterel had acquired for life from Sir William de Morle, and they were now (1383 A.D.) conveyed to Sir John, his wife, and their heirs in perpetuity, together with the advowson of Colton Church, and a windmill which had not formed part of Luterell's life interest (*v.* Appendix). That is to say, the entire rights which the Mareschals had gradually acquired in the room of the de Coltons,

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\* Dugdale's Baronage, Vol. 2, p. 26.

and as mesne lords over the de Coltons, Griffyns and Mavesyns of Little Hay in the place of the Husseys.

Thus far we have traced the Colton advowson from Gerald de Colton (c. H. 2 and R. 1), and his descendants, through the Mareschals and Morleys, until it passed into the possession of the Gresleys (1382 A.D.). The grant, dated at Colton on the feast of St. Peter ad vincula (Aug. 1, 6 Ric. 2, is accompanied by a power of attorney to *Edmund Toly* and John Marchys, to give seisin of the above-named lands, &c., sealed with the de Morle arms, "argent, a lion rampant sable, crowned or." A fine autotype copy of this seal will be found in the "Gresley Charters." That Edmund Toly was here selected is, I think, some corroboration of Joan's influence in the matter, confirmed by the wording of the grant to Sir John and to his heirs by her.

This marks a turning-point in Colton history—the introduction of the Gresleys. Sir John de Gresley, now, in right of Joan Toly his wife, the leading Colton landowner, represented that ancient Gresley family whose ancestor Nigel de Toeni, Robert de Stafford's brother, was Domesday tenant of Morton, Drointon, Hixon, Wolseley, and other Staffordshire manors (exclusive of Kingston, which did not become Gresley property until the 13th century), besides his extensive Derbyshire estates of Castle Gresley, Drakelow, &c. Morton, the central manor of this Staffordshire group, where their courts were held, bounds Colton on the north-west; there would be constant

intercourse between the neighbouring vills; and the Gresley policy, naturally enough, would aim at enlarging their Morton estate, within a ring fence if possible, by acquiring the adjoining Colton lands. On this plan Sir John appears to have improved; for, prompted and assisted by his wife, herself tenant for life of the de Wasteneys manor, he not only bought up land here, but, by two great measures—(1) the marriage of his son by Alice de Swinnerton, his first wife, to Thomasine, the Wasteneys' heiress; and (2) by acquiring from Sir Thomas de Morle, the entire Mareschal claims over the "de Colton" (or church) manor, he consolidated in one the Morton and Colton properties, with the exception of the de Blithfield interest in Morton and Little Hay; and that of St. Thomas, over the Grange and Llount estates.

The recovery of Colton Mill, on the River Trent, by Sir John de Gresley and his wife Joan, because Henry de Ruggeleye had paid no rent for it during the two last years, has already been noticed (*v. Pleas* 25 Ed. 3, 1359 A.D.\*).

(33 Ed. 3. 1360 A.D.) John de Gresley, Kt.,† in person, charged Sir Walter de Ridware, Thomas de Ridware, John de Pilcote, William le Reve of Ridware-hampstal, Adam de Pipe, Richard, son of Robert de Hondsaere, Simon Huddle, the vicar of Ruggeleye, and four others named, with breaking

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\* Staffs. Hist. Coll., vol 12, p. 110.

† Staffs. Hist. Coll., vol. 14, p. 101.

“vi et armis” into his park at Colton, and chasing and taking his game. None of them appeared. Sir Walter, Adam, and Richard, who had found bail, were to be distrained ; the others to be arrested and produced (m. 94).

The Pleas of 2 and 3 Rich. 2, show another and more serious case of park-breaking, when Sir John\* sues Stephen, son of Ralph de Hampton, Henry de Gratwich, Thomas le Smyth, William de Lindseye, and others named, for breaking forcibly into his park here, together with Ralph de Hampton, Thomas de Hampton, chaplain, and Roger Michel, of Abbots Bromley, and chasing and taking his game, on the Sunday after the feast of St. Augustine, Bp., 2 R. 2, *i.e.*, 40 bucks, 100 does, etc., for which he claimed £200 damages. They appealed to a jury, and the case was again adjourned to 4 Ric. 2 (m. 45). He further charged them with breaking into his free warren here on the Monday after the octaves of St. Augustine (2 R. 2), and taking his fish, pike, perch, roach. bremes (*sic*), and eels, to the value of £10; besides 20 hares, 40 rabbits, 40 pheasants, and 1,000 partridges, for which he claimed £200 damages. It seems that they again appealed. We find (32 Ed. 3) Sir John and his wife are pursuing Richard, son of Robert de Colton, chaplain, for a messuage here, as Joan’s right, on the same ground as in the Colton Mill case, of dues unpaid for two years. In 3 Ric. 2, there was a trial whether Sir John and Joan,†

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\* Staffs. Hist. Coll., vol. 14, pp. 146 and 151.

† Staffs. Hist. Coll., vol. 13, p. 162.

with Thomas Toly and Sibil his wife, had unjustly deprived Henry Puys (Wells),\* and Richard de Hampton,† of a messuage, 68 acres of land, 10 acres of meadow, 8 acres of wood, a weir, and half an acre of land covered with water, in Colton. The defendants failing to appear, the case was tried in their absence, and the recognitors stated that the plaintiffs had been disseised, and they fixed the damages at 20 mares (m. 10 roll 1487). Whether the weir and half-acre of land covered with water refer to the mill-pool at Hamley or not is uncertain. That there must have been such a pool, where the water supply was small, is most probable. For want of evidence, the question must remain open. In 7 Ric. 2 (1384 A.D.), John de Gresley, Kt., brought an action against Richard, vicar of Rugeley Church, for forcibly taking three swans, worth £10, from the aery of the said John, at Colton. Richard did not appear, and the Sheriff returned that he held nothing, he is to be arrested, and produced on the morrow of All Souls (m. 67). 12 Ric. 2,‡ William Clerk, Parson of Colton, a turbulent lawless man, was attached at Sir John de Gresley's suit, for breaking into his Colton free warren, with one John Clerk, on the

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\*The arms of this family, given on the seal of Henry de Puis, of Ruggeley, temp. Ric. 2, are "a chevron between three hunting horns" (Gresley Chartulary).

† Staffs. Hist. Coll., vol. 13, p. 183. The Hampton family bore for their arms "a fesse between three horseshoes;" v. seal of this Richard de Hampton (Gresley Chartulary).

‡ Staffs. Hist. Coll., vol. 15, p. 21.

Monday before Michaelmas (11 Ric. 2), and taking 60 hares, 100 rabbits, 100 pheasants, 200 partridges, and repeating the same trespass divers times for a year afterwards, for which Sir John claimed £40 damages. William, appearing by attorney, denied the trespass, appealing to a jury. The suit was at last removed by writ of “ nisi prius ” to be heard at Stafford, where the jury convicted him of entering the free warren, and taking 40 hares and 60 pheasants, for which they adjudged him to pay the heavy fine of 20 marcs (£13. 6s. 8d ). For the rest of the charges John de Gresley was amerced for a false claim (m. 574 d.) The Pleas of 11 Ric. 2, state further that Sir Thomas de Stafford, Kt., charged the same William Clerk, parson here, with breaking into a close of his in Colton, and taking his goods to the value of £20. The Sheriff returned that William held nothing. He was to be arrested and produced (m. 358 d). Only the preceding term that year, John Smyth, of Colton,\* had sued the same William Clerk and Robert de Pilkinton (Wright) for beating and wounding him at Colton. The next year Sir Thomas de Stafford renews his charge ; adding a further complaint and claim for damages done by William Clerk’s cattle in treading down and eating his grass to the value of £5. William had disappeared, and could not be found. In 9 Ric. 2,† one William Saunderson, of Ingestre, charged William, son of Adam Nichols, of Colton,

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\* Staffs. Hist. Coll., Vol. 15, p. 7.

† Staffs. Hist. Coll. vol. 13, p. 192,



John, son of William Bailly, of Colton, and William Penne, of Colton, with beating and wounding him at Colton, and keeping him in prison till he paid a fine of £4 for his release. They were to be arrested and produced (m. 331). 14 R. 2, Thomas de Morhay sued John Smyth, of Colton, for 4 acres here, and Richard Smyth for 4 acres, which Adam de Prees (Wells) had given to Agatha, daughter of Walerand le Bret, for her life, with remainder to John, son of Agatha, and the heirs of his body, and which should descend to Thomas. The case is interesting, because he put in the following pedigree :—

Walerand le Bret

[Witnesses Colton deed, c. \*1220.]

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Agatha de Morhay, d. of Walerand le Bret

[c. Henry \*3 and Ed. 1, 1278 A.D.]

|

John, son of Agatha de Morhay

[Attests a deed here, \* 1295 A.D.]

= Dionysia

|

Henry, son of John de Morhay

[A.D. \* 1322, etc.]

|

Felicia, d. of Henry de Morhay

|

Thomas, son of Felicia de Morhay

[10 Ric. 2, etc.]

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\*The dates here are inserted from Colton deeds (v. appendix). In the Plea Roll pedigree, John de Morhay is dated temp. Ed. 3, which is likely to mislead an enquirer.

A jury was to be summoned, as John Smyth denied his tenancy, and Richard Smyth called John Smyth to warranty \*(m. 366).

The year 1392 A.D. (15 R. 2), witnessed a fine levied between Roger de Gresley, Edmund Toly, John Abel of Caldewall, and John de Yoxhalle, on the one side; and Sir John Gresley and Joan his wife, on the other; concerning the church manor of Colton, called "Marchal's and Gryffin's," and four messuages, 60 acres of land, 12 acres of meadow, 60 acres of moor, and 20s. 6d. of rent, in Colton and Wolseley, with the advowson of Colton Church. By this fine the manor and advowson were entailed on Sir John Gresley and Joan for their lives, and after their decease, to remain to Thomas Gresley and Margaret his wife, and their issue, and in default of such issue, then to the right heirs of John Gresley.† In supplying us with this name for the "de Colton," or church manor, the fine is a valuable confirmation of the account previously given of the former possessors. A deed of 1364 A.D. proves the marriage of Nicholas Gresley and Thomasine to have taken place before that year. In 1372 Sir John and Joan leased to him Osgarthorpe manor, except the advowson and the glebe meadow. As Sir Nicholas de Gresley, Kt., in 1374 A.D., he received other lands there from a certain Pain Bozoun (v. Gresley charters, 327). The eldest son by this marriage, Sir Thomas Gresley,

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\* Staffs. Hist. Col., vol. 15, p. 33.

† Staffs Hist. Coll., vol. 11, p. 199.

succeeded to all the De Wasteneys' lands, and it was on him and his wife that the above entail was made of the Church Manor.\* After the death of Sir Nicholas, Thomasine took for her second husband Sir Hamon de Peshall, Kt.; and they appear to have lived at Colton in 1395 A.D., for we find a deed executed by them here granting to one John Ball, of Osgarthorpe, the site of that manor with the orchard and buildings.† Sir Hamon had lands at Great Wenlock, Whyston, and Trent, v. Pleas of Richard 2 (S. H. Coll. vol. 15).

Previously to this some collusive suits of 12 Ric. 2 (1389 A.D.) were raised between Thomasine de Gresley, and her second husband on the one hand; and Thomas Rodhode and Richard Colwich, chaplains, on the other—the object being to levy the following fine, for an entail of the property.

#### FINES OF MIXED COUNTIES OF RIC. 2'S REIGN.

On the Octaves of Holy Trinity, 12 Ric. 2 (1392 A.D.). And afterwards recorded on the Octaves of St. Martin (18 R. 2), between

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\* Roger Gresley, her younger son, resided at Church Gresley, in Derbyshire; his only daughter and heiress, Margaret, married William Bapthorp, of Elston, Leicestershire. Thomasine subsequently restored the church here, and decorated the south chancel walls with frescoes. The life of St. Nicholas, her husband's patron saint, being among the subjects portrayed. May not the work very probably have been done to his memory, in the interval between her first and second marriage.

† Gresley Chartulary.

Thomas Rodhode, Chaplain . . . Complainant  
and

Hamon de Peshale, Kt., and Tho- }  
masine, his wife . . . . . } Deforciant

Concerning the Wasteney's Manor of Colton, Staffs., the Manor of Osgothorp, Leicestershire, the manors of Brassingburgh and Carlby . . . and a messuage, a carucate of land, 20s. rent in Thurlaby, co. Lincoln, and of the manor of Seton, co. Ebor.\*

Sir Hamon and Thomasine acknowledged the right of Thomas Rodhode, for which he granted that the said manors and tenements, which John de Gresley and Joan his wife held for the life of Joan, should remain to the said Hamon and Thomasine, and to the heirs of Thomasine for ever. The Pleas of 19 Ric. 2† prove that Sir Hamo de Peshall sued William and Richard Griffyn for cutting down his trees and underwood at Colton, to the value of £10. They did not appear (m. 361).

It is somewhat remarkable that in 1399 A.D., one John Cook is described as conveying all his rights and property here to Thomasine "*de Gresley*," mistress of Colton, and that even so late as 1403 A.D. she is thus named twice in the Plea Rolls, where, as Thomasine "*de Gresley*," she charged John Hare, John Wygan, John Colyn, Nicholas Bette, Ralph Mulward, and Richard de Sonde, for treading down

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\* Staffs. Hist. Coll., vol. 11, p. 209.

† Staffs. Hist. Coll., vol. 15, p. 74.

and consuming her grass at Colton with their cattle, to the value of £10.\* This was at Michaelmas; while in the Easter term, as Thomasia “de Gresley,” she had recovered a messuage and three acres of land in Colton from Roger Syward and Agnes his wife for not paying rent during the last two years (m. 203). Probably it is best accounted for by the fact that her son, Sir Thomas de Gresley, was the next heir; and by the name of Gresley being far more important in the neighbourhood than that of Peshall; and now for fifty years past connected with the possession of Colton.

Again, as Thomasine de Gresley and lady of Colton in 22 Ric. 2 (1398 A.D.), she leased to her son for his life, the Lincolnshire Manor of Brassingburgh (Braceborough) and the advowson of half of Carleby Church, for a rent of £26, being herself then resident at Brassynghburgh. But her death had occurred before July 1405 A.D. (6 Hen. 4). Witness Sir Thomas de Gresley’s feoffment of his estates at that date (*v.* appendix).

Of the two persons, Joan Toly, her mother, and Sir John de Gresley, who had so considerably influenced Colton interests—the former appears to have died circa 1393 A.D. (16 Ric. 2), to judge by the probate of her will, which is here given at length from the original at Drakelow (No. 355, Gresley Charters).

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\* Staffs. Hist. Coll., vol. 15, p. 98.

## WILL OF JOAN DE GRESLEY.

In nomine Domini, amen, ego, Johanna de Gresleye, domina de Drakelowe, bone et sane memorie, condo testamentum meum in hunc modum. Primo lego animam Deo, et beate Marie, et omnibus sanctis, et corpus meum ad sepeliendum in ecclesiâ parochiali de Brassingborough, videlicet in capellâ Sancti Georgii ex parte boreali, et lego rectori de Brassingborough nomine pryncipalis unum equum prec' XL solid. vel (the equivalent in cash ?) et lego cuilibet servienti meo X solidos. Item lego Priori de Greseley unum principalem prout decet. Item lego Thome de Gresley XX. marcas argenti. Et totum residuum volo quod sit ad dispositionem domini mei Johannis de Greseleye. Et ad hoc testamentum exequendum ordino et constituo Edmundum Toly, et Johannem Yoxhall, executores meos, et dominum meum Johannem de Greseleye supervisorem eorum. In cujus rei testimonium huic testamento meo sigillum meum apposui. Dat'apud Drakelowe die . . . proximâ ante festum Pentecostes, anno regni Regis Ricardi secundi post conquestum sexto decimo " (16 R. 2). Probatum fuit presens testamentum coram nobis Johanne de Garton, venerabilis patris domini Ricardi, Dei gratiâ Coventrensis et Lichfeldensis Episcopi, sequestratore generali. Commissa que est administracio ejusdem Edmundo Toly executori infra (scripto?) (in ?) formâ juris jurato ; reservatâ nobis potestate committendi administracionem Johanni executori infra (scripto?). Dat'apud Drakelow, V. Kalend Junii (?) anno domini milesimo ccc<sup>mo</sup>. nonagesimo tercio.

It seems likely from this that the family burial place of the de Wasteney's was in Lincolnshire, since though she died at Drakelowe, Joanna desired that her body might rest at Brassingburgh, and not with her second husband's family.

The executors of Sir John Gresley's will, namely Sir Thomas de Greseley, Kt., his grandson, and John Curson, are shown in the Pleas of Easter 2 H. 4, to



be suing William Clerk, parson of Colton Church, for a debt of £6 owing to the deceased Sir John.\* William did not appear, and is to be arrested and produced by the Sheriff (m. 414 d.). This entry does not, however, mark the date of Sir John's death, for an earlier claim was made by his executors in 19 Rich. 2 (1395 A.D.). It is to be observed that in October the previous year, he had signed a notice that "not having had the power of his seal" for the past year, he denied all contracts and writings sealed in his name during that time. The present deed being confirmed with the seal of Repingdon Deanery. This looks as if he had been too ill to manage his own affairs, and others had been acting for him, but without proper authority (v. Gresley Charters). The Feet of Fines (1 Hen. 4)† mention a suit between John Clerkson, of Colton, and Thomas del Hay, of Kinges Bromley, and Agnes his wife, concerning a messuage, a toft, and 16 acres of land here. Thomas and Agnes remit all claim, receiving from John 20 silver marcs. Five years later, there was a fine levied between Sir Thomas Gresley, Kt.,‡ and William de Penne of Colton, and Isabella his wife, for two messuages, 65 acres of land, and 7 acres of meadow here (in Colton and Colneley) (Colton-le-y?) William and Isabella resigned all claim, receiving 10 marcs from Sir Thomas. The Gresley Chartu-

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\* Staffs. Hist. Coll., vol. 15, p. 97.

† Staffs. Hist. Coll., vol. 11, p. 210.

‡ Staffs. Hist. Coll., vol. 11, p. 214.

lary contains the copy of a grant of half a cottage here, "which descended to me after the death of Felicia Backboke," from Sybil Backboke to William Griffyn, 20 Rich. 2, 1397 A.D. This seems to add another link to the Griffyn pedigree, and is further valuable for the coat of arms upon the seal attached, "Party per pale, a lion rampant within a bordure engrailed, impaling 3 chevrons, and a file of 3 points, charged with as many roundels." A Mavesyn grant (circa. Hen. 3) is witnessed by Wm. Griffyn de Colton, and Wm. Griffyn de Clayton; taken together with these arms, this is sufficient proof that the Griffyns of Colton were a branch of the Clayton Griffyn family.

In 1413 A.D. (1 Hen. 5), Richard Say charged John Clerk, of Colton, with unjustly disseising him of 22s. of rent here—proceeding from land formerly belonging to Henry Colmon, who had bound himself by a deed of 1307 A.D., now produced in court, to pay that amount to Geoffrey le Wasteneys, lord of Tyxhale, in perpetuity. Geoffrey had passed it down from father to son through Malcolm, William and Roger Wasteneys; and Roger had conveyed it by deed (of 1 Hen. 4) to Richard Say, the plaintiff—who now recovered the rent, with 20s. damages (m. 5, assize roll, Staffs. Hist. Coll., vol. 17, p. 43). This rent may represent the small interest in Colton of the Tyxhall branch of the Wasteneys. Both Henry Colmon's grant, and that of Roger Wasteneys will be found in the appendix to the Wasteneys of Tixall.

Sir Thomas took to wife Margaret Walsh,\* of Wanlip, in Leicestershire, whose arms are given in Wanlip Church as “gules two bars argent, over all a bend of the last,” though Dugdale wrongly represents them as bars *gemels* (in his great pedigree of the Astons, now in the Salt Library, Stafford).

Being possessed of such wide estates, Sir Thomas de Gresley was necessarily a man of considerable importance; he represented Derbyshire in the Parliament of A.D. 1401. Nine years later we find him receiving from Richard Hampton (otherwise called Richard Wymer, of Drakelow, cousin and heir of Margery Wymer, of Blithbury), all the said Richard's rights and property in Colton and the adjoining parishes of Abbot's and Bagot's Bromley and Mavesyn Ridware.† Certain grants of land in the Newlands to Sir Thomas and others will be found in the appendix, bearing date from 1409 to 1411 A.D. We know that he again sat in Parliament for Derbyshire in A.D. 1415 and 1418, and became High Sheriff of Staffordshire in 1439, after representing that county in 1434.

In the former publication of these notes it was stated, on the authority of Sir H. Nicholas, that when the English invasion of France took place in

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\* Daughter of Sir Thomas Walsh. Owing, probably, to this connection, several deeds relating to the Leicestershire property of the Walsh family, were found among the Ingestre records.

† Margery Wymer is described as daughter of William Wymer, of Blithbury, and sister and heiress of John Wymer, her brother.

1415, Sir Thomas was rated to serve in King Henry V.'s retinue with three men-at-arms and nine archers; Sir John Gresley, his son, being rated at two men-at-arms and six archers. They were not themselves present at the decisive victory of Agincourt—possibly they formed part of the force left behind by the king to garrison Harfleur. One William Holeyns, however, a lance belonging to Sir Thomas Gresley, took part in the battle. An extract obtained through Genl. Wrottesley from the so-called “Agincourt” roll (Treasurer's receipt Miscellanea <sup>4</sup>/<sub>9</sub>) gives

(R.) JOHN GRESLEY, CHEVALIER.

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John Gresley, chevalier,	}	Lances.
Robert Viker,		
And eight archers.		

To reconcile the two statements is difficult, unless they relate to the expeditions of different years; King Henry V. having twice sailed for France (in 1415 and 1417). Probably this is the correct explanation. Previously, while Richard II. was yet on the throne, considerable friction had arisen between Sir Thomas and his neighbours, the Abbot and Monks of Burton. A memorandum of their complaints exists, and has been printed among the Gresley deeds. “The inclosing of a meadow called Newe medowe, of a pasture called Thornyhalugh, and of a piece of Drakelow meadow [formerly uninclosed, either entirely, or at least after the crops

were carried]. The exaction of a day's reaping from the Abbot's cottars in Caldewall, the construction of a new weir on the Trent, to the injury of the Abbot's land. That John Bette, a servant of Sir Thomas, had entered the abbey with other retainers (23 Ric. 2) and taken a grey horse of the Abbot's violently, and carried it off. Also Thomas de Gresley and his men had robbed the Abbot's men at Brondeston of a boat and net, after putting them to flight. The aforesaid John Bette, and others, had besides come to Burton constantly, threatening and abusing the Monks, and the Abbot's tenants. Lastly, on the highway, Sir Thomas's men had seized a horse from a cart of the kitchener's, and never sent it back." Sir Thomas enfeoffed Philip de Repingdon, Bp. of Nicole, Thomas Langley, then Chancellor of England, Sir Thomas Maureward, Kt., John Foljambe, and others, in all his manors. together with the advowsons of the churches in Colton (and elsewhere in Staffs.); in Osgathorpe (and Leicestershire generally); in Braceborough, (co. Lincoln); and in Seton and elsewhere (co. York); which formerly belonged to Sir Thomas Wastneys, his grandfather, and fell to him on the death of the Lady Thomasine de Gresley, his mother. John Bagot, Kt., and Nicholas de Ruggeley, being among the witnesses (v. appendix). It was sealed at Colton, July 22nd, 1405 A.D. The explanation of this, we gather from their refeoffment of Sir Thomas in his estates, which had been conveyed to them "as trustees," with special in-

structions "in case he had died before this refection was made"; or in case his son had not been of full age at Sir Thomas's death; or in case his wife Margaret, being a widow, had married again. The whole of this French deed will be found in the appendix.

In 1417 A.D. (4 Hen. 5), Sir Thomas de Gresley, Kt., described in the Plea Roll as the son of Thomasine de Gresley, otherwise Thomasia, formerly wife of Nicholas de Gresley, Kt., sued Thomas Davy, of Horecros, gentleman, for a debt of £40. Thomas failing to appear, the Sheriff is to distrain and produce him (m. 66).\*

In A.D. 1420, we find Sir Thomas Gresley granting permission to the sub-prior and monks of Gresley Priory to elect a new superior,† "the former prior having gone the way of all flesh." As their "*patronus legitimus et advocatus*," he took charge of the temporalities on a Prior's death, and his license for the election of a new superior was necessary; on receiving his sanction they proceeded with the election; and reported a week later that William de St. Ives had been chosen.

Subsequently (1438 A.D.), John Bredon, the sub-Prior, petitions that Sir Thomas will ratify their choice of Richard of Coventry to succeed William de St. Ives, lately deceased.

The Plea Rolls show that Sir Thomas Gresley

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\* Staffs. Hist. Coll., vol. 17, p. 59.

† Gresley Chartulary.



had been arbitrator at Drakelow between John Dethick and Ralph Hosee (Hussey) of Congkston. Ralph accused John and two other Dethicks of getting him imprisoned on a false charge of breaking into Thomas Dethick's house at Uttoxeter; and wounding him with an arrow. Sir Thomas, after careful consideration, had adjudged John to pay a jar of wine in full compensation to Ralph, who now, two years later, was trying to extort £600 damages. Twenty-four knights from the Drakelow neighbourhood were to be summoned to decide the case (*v. Pleas*, 1422 A.D., Staffs. Hist. Coll.).

In 1437, Sir Thomas, and his son and heir, Sir John, "for the good of their souls," so the grant runs, "allow the abbot and monastery of Burton-on-Trent to bring their lead pipes for drawing water under the Gresley lands at Stapenhull.\* The value of the Yorkshire property of the Wasteneys at this time is shewn by an entry estimating the rental of his lands at Seton and Spaldingmore at £4 2s. 2d. Besides his son, Sir John, he left behind him two daughters—Joan,† who was nurse to the young King Henry VI., and married Thomas Astley, Esq., of Patishull, and Margaret, who became the wife of Sir John Blount, and mother of Walter, first Lord Mountjoy, Lord Treasurer to King Edward IV. and a Knight of the Garter.‡

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\* Gresley Chartulary.

† Blores' MSS. Collections S.L. Joan died in 31 Hen. 6.

‡ Created Lord Mountjoy in 1465 A.D. His death occurred in 1474. We learn from Stow's London (Ed. Thoms, p. 120) that

During his father's lifetime Sir John Gresley had married Margaret, daughter of Sir Thomas Clarell, of Aldwark, in Yorkshire,\* whose arms are "six silver martlets on a red field." In 1409 A.D., a grant was confirmed to them both by Thomas Langley, bishop of Durham, Philip de Repington, bishop of Nicole (for so, by a kind of French euphony, they pronounced Lincoln), Sir Thomas Maureward and others, of an annual grant of twenty mares, arising from Colton manor, for their lives. As the deed was signed at Colton it seems possible, though by no means certain, that these bishops may have been residing here with Sir Thomas on their way to or from the North. Both bishops were subsequently created cardinals.

Sir John Gresley was afterwards returned as one of the principal gentry of Staffordshire by the Royal Commissioners sent to report the names of all persons of note, that they might be sworn to keep the peace for themselves and their retainers, because the title of the House of York had just been set on foot. 1434 A.D. (12 Hen. 6.) A precaution in the present instance by no means unnecessary, for Dugdale, in his Baronage, quotes an ancient deed containing the

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he was buried in the "Postles Chapel" of the Grey Friars' Church.

\* The first of her family connected with Aldwark was Sir William Clarell, who acquired it by marriage with Agnes Walleis, daughter and heiress of Sir William Walleis (temp. Ed. 1 and Ed. 2), *vide* Hunter's South Yorkshire. Her sister married Sir Robert Waterton.

names of those Lords, Knights, and Gentlemen, who by indenture covenanted to stand by William, Lord Hastings, in peace or war. This roll is headed by John Blount, Lord Mountjoy, and seventh in order stands the name of Sir John Gresley,\* a proof quite sufficient of some leaning to the party of the "White Rose;" in his son's case at least if not in his own. For to judge from a lease granted by the feoffees of Margaret, widow of John Gresley, Kt., to John Gresley, Esqre., her son, of the manors of Colton and Kingston (for a term of thirty years, at a rent of forty pounds a year), and dated March 1, 27 Hen. 6 (1449 A.D.), Sir John Gresley was dead some twenty-six years before that bond was entered upon. Besides a son and heir, named John, he had issue a daughter, Catherine, married to Sir Wm. Peyto, of Chesterton, in Warwickshire, ancestor through the female line, of Lord Willoughby de Broke, and a younger son Nicholas (v. Feud arbitration deed).

Sir John Gresley was High Sheriff for Derbyshire in 32 Hen. 6 (1454 A.D.), having been returned as member for Staffordshire the previous year. He afterwards sat for Derbyshire in the Parliament of 1461 (39 Hen. 6), and subsequently in that of 1478 A.D., for the same county. This Sir John had strengthened his connection with Staffordshire by

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\* No less than 89 names are here enrolled, including 2 lords, 9 knights, and 58 esquires, besides 20 gentlemen. It is dated 4 Ed. 4, 1475, A.D. The exact date of Sir John's death is not given in the S. L. pedigrees, but this entry refers, no doubt, to his son,

taking to wife Anne,\* daughter of Sir Thomas Stanley, of Elford, Kt.

The following award of Humphrey, Duke of Buckingham, to determine the feud "long time hangyng" between Sir William Vernon, Kt., Roger Vernon his brother, with their retainers on the one hand, and Sir John Gresley, Kt., Nicholas his brother, there men-servants and tenants on the other," dated Sept. 13, 34 Hen. 6 (1455 A.D.), throws light on the state of feeling between these two leading families of Derbyshire, "All quarrels were first to be laid aside, with all manner of grudgings and rancour of heart." If any future difficulties arose, the Duke, or his son Stafford, in his absence, was to be their referee. Annes, widow of John Herte, slain at Burton by Sir William Vernon's servants, was to be at once paid 17 mares, yet outstanding of 20 that had been before awarded her to be expended for the benefit of the soul of the said John, and the relief of Annes and of her children.

On the other hand Sir John Gresley was to pay to the use of Thomas Webbe of Shele, tenant of Sir William Vernon, which was hurte by Sir John's servants: "for a sore wounde in the head 13s. 4d., for another sore wounde in the face 13s. 4d., and for every of six (!) other woundes 6s. 8d., and for a main on the thumb in the left hand £5 - sum 12 mares 6s. 8d." This precise valuation of the various wounds is curious enough.

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\* Gresley Chartulary, Manchester.

The public records place Sir John first on a list of ten principal men of the county, chosen commissioners to assess, and appoint collectors of, the tax imposed by Edward IV.'s last Parliament on all aliens, except Spanish, Breton, and Almayn merchants.

\*In 1483 we find Elizabeth Shyrbourne, Prioress of "the Blessed Trinity of Grace Dieu," bringing a suit against Sir John Gresley, Knight, Lord of Osgarthorpe, before Catherine, Lady of Hastings, widow of the celebrated William Lord Hastings, before mentioned. The Prioress claimed a yearly rent, which Dame Rose de Verdon, their foundress, had received about the middle of the 13th century by the gift of Sir William de Wasteneys.

†Two years later (2nd Richard 3) Sir John was one of the commissioners of survey and array for Staffordshire.

That fresh difficulties had arisen between Burton Abbey and the Gresleys, is proved by Sir John Gresley's bond, dated Feb. 6, 1467 (6 Ed. 4) in 200 mares, to abide by the award of George, Duke of Clarence, brother of King Edward IV., in settling their disputes. The Abbot and monastery claiming certain rents and lands in Burton, Drakelow, Caldwell, and Lynton, a fishery in Trent, from "Redebank in Walton, up to the Abbot's mill called Over-mill," and Sir John claiming certain of the

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\* Gresley Chartulary.

† Public Records, 1486-8. S.L.

abbey rents in Burton, Tetnall, and elsewhere in Staffs. (v. Gresley deeds).

Sir John Gresley died in A.D. 1489, leaving behind him a family consisting of one son, Sir Thomas, and three daughters—Alice, married to John Eger-ton, a second who was the wife of Thomas Darell, and Anne, who married Sir Simon Mountford, of Coleshill. We have omitted to notice that in 1481, Sir John gave to Wm. Gresley, rector of Stoke, and to Richard Gresley, the manor of Colton—Richard Bagot of Blithfield, his son John Bagot, and Richard Wigan of Colton, witnessing the deed—but evidently this was only done by a collusive suit, for they reconvey to him and Anne his wife the said manor. The arms of Stanley of Elford, his wife's family are "argent on a bend azure 3 stags heads cabossed." It is worthy of note that in 1480 A.D., John Griffen surrendered all his rights in the town and fields of Colton to John Aston, Esqre., Ralph Wolseley (a Baron of the Exchequer,) and John Bale, rector of Blithfield.

A fine of 21 Ed. 4, between Ralph Wolseley complainant, and Sir Thomas Littleton, Kt., deforciant, of a rent of 22s., issuing from four tofts, 100 acres of land, 30 acres of meadow, 100 acres of pasture, and 20 acres of wood in Colton, determines that Thomas granted the said rent; which Sir John Gresley, Kt., tenant of the aforesaid tenements, was wont to pay to Thomas and his heirs; to Ralph Wolseley and his heirs, for which Ralph gave him 20 silver marcs. The following year, by another



fine, Ralph Wolseley acquired certain Bishton and Colton land. This Ralph was one of the Barons of the Exchequer, and much in favour with Edward IV., who granted him license to crenellate Wolseley Hall; and to make "deer-leaps" in his park, a right still carefully preserved by the Wolseleys, though there are no longer wild deer on Cannock Chase, to be induced to venture over them.

Of Sir Thomas Gresley we know but little; unlike his father, he seems to have avoided taking any very active part in public affairs, although he served on one occasion as High Sheriff for Staffordshire; this was in A.D. 1490.

Sir Louis Bagot, by deed dated 1492 A.D., 7 Hen. 7, conveyed to Sir Thomas Gresley four acres of arable land here, lying within an inclosure called "Hasilhurst," now included within the "New Park," with a quit-claim of the other lands and pastures included in the same new park, together with those included within the "Barre-moor" and "Moor Heys." These lands are near the "Park fields," on the Colton Hall side, and not far from the mill. The grant is noticeable if we are to conclude that the park about Colton Hall was now being made—or at least considerably enlarged. By his wife Anne Ferrers, of Tamworth Castle, he left issue at his death in A.D. 1504, five sons—Sir William, Sir George, John (a priest; made rector of Colton in A.D. 1498),\* Robert, and James, besides

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\* Lichfield Diocesan Registry.

a daughter Elizabeth. The arms of Ferrers, of Tamworth, are "gules seven mascles, conjunct 3, 3, and 1, or; a label for difference." Sir William Gresley, the eldest son, served King Henry VIII. in the invasion of France, was present at the siege of Terouenne in A.D. 1513, and at the battle of "The Spurs." The King knighted him (October 14th) at Lisle. The contract of his marriage with Benet Vernon, daughter of Sir Henry Vernon, of Much-Haddon, is, we believe, extant, bearing date 1497 A.D. ; probably special importance was attached to it at the time, because of the feud between the two families, in which we saw Humphrey, Duke of Buckingham, act as mediator (1456 A.D.) Now, some forty years later, the marriage of a daughter of the Vernons with the heir of the Gresleys, would put a still more effectual end to all ill-feeling between the two houses. This marriage may explain the presence of several Vernon deeds in the Gresley charter collection. Among the fines of mixed counties, 11 Hen. 8, occurs the following conveyance of the Gresley estates to Sir John Burdett, Thomas Boteler, and others, from Sir William Gresley. Besides Drakelowe, Lollington, Castle Gresley, Lynton, Okethorpe, and Dunes-thorpe manors (in co. Derby), the manors of Colton, Kyneston, Morton, Hykesdon (Hixon), and Tutbury-Woodhouses, are named ; and of 60 messuages, 1,000 acres of land, 300 of meadow, 1,000 of pasture, 500 of wood, 100 of marsh, and 100 of furze and heath, and of a rent in Colton, Morton, Hixon,

&c , &c., co. Staffs.; of Osgarthorpe and Morton Manors, co. Leicester; of the Manors of Seyton-in-Spalding, co. York; and those of Brasynburgh, Carleby, and Baston, co. Lincoln; for which they gave him 6,000 mares. The wealth of the family and their firm hold on the Wasteney's estates are well shown by this list.

As Sir William died without legitimate issue, his brother George, the second son of Sir Thomas, took possession of the family estates, including Colton, but not unchallenged; for Cardinal Wolsey's award against the claim raised by Sir William's widow, Alice, and her four bastard sons, will be found on page 105 of the Gresley Charters. George Gresley was created a Knight of the Bath at the coronation of Queen Ann Boleyn, A.D. 1534, and served in 1538, and again in 1545, as High Sheriff for Staffordshire. He married Margaret Mulso, of Thingedon, now Finedon, Northants,\* and had, besides a son William, a daughter Catherine, married to Edward Winter, of Leicestershire [a deed given in the appendix shows that she had land here from her father]; by his second wife Catherine Dudley, daughter of Edward Lord Dudley, K.G., he left two sons, Edward and Thomas, and a daughter, Elizabeth, married to Charles Somerset.

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\* The arms of Mulso are "ermine on a bend sable three goats' heads erased argent." 5 Hen. 4. Mulsho paid a fine for leave to purchase the Manor of Thingden, or Finedon. (Vide Bridges' Northants, v. 2, p. 256).

In 1533 A.D. (24 Hen. 8), a fine levied between Sir John Gifford, Kt., and others, including William Chetwynd, James Gresley, and Humphrey Mynours, Complainants; and Thos. Boteler, Armiger, Anthony Gresley, Thomas and Xtopher Colwich, John and Thomas Saunder, and others, Deforciantes; settled Colton and Kynston [Kings-ton] manors for 2,000 mares (with 60 messuages, 30 tofts, 2,000 acres of land, 500 of meadow, 1,400 pasture, 2,000 wood, 1,000 furze and heath, and £10 of rent in Colton and other neighbouring places with the advowson of Colton Church, on Humphrey Mynors and the others.

Sir George died in A.D. 1548. Sir William Gresley married Catherine, daughter of Sir Edward Aston, of Tixall: Strype's Memorials show that he was knighted on October 2nd, 1553, the day after the Queen's Coronation, "when the Knights of the Carpet were dubbed before her, at the Palace at Westminster, in her presence-chamber, under the cloth of estate, by the Earl of Arundel, who had her Highness's commission to execute the same." Sir William's name stands 32nd upon the list.

In 1562 we find him serving as High Sheriff for Staffordshire, and in the same year offering to sell the Manors of Brasborough and Carleby, part of the de Wasteney's land in Lincolnshire, to Sir William Cecil.

He took active part in the wars of the Netherlands. At his death in 1573 he left three sons, Thomas, Hastings, and Simon, besides four

daughters, Jane, Mary, Elizabeth, and Grace, wife of Sir Thomas Wolseley, Knight.

By fine of I. Philip and Mary (1554 A.D.) Sir William secured from David Cawarden, and Matilda his wife, 2 messuages, 60 acres of land, 15 of meadow, 20 of pasture, 10 of wood, and 3d. of rent in Blithbury, Hill Ridware, and Colton for £40. This probably included, as we before noticed, the small holding in Colton which had belonged to the main line of the Mavesyns. In 4 Eliz. (1562 A.D.) Sir William, by another fine, acquired a moiety of some 200 acres in Blithbury and Colton.

Thomas Gresley succeeded his father, not only in the family estates, but in A.D. 1583 in the office of High Sheriff for Staffordshire, and later on, in 1591, for Derbyshire; being a third time in office when Queen Elizabeth's death took place, he had to meet and welcome King James on his way from Scotland to take possession of the English Crown, and was knighted by him at Worksop, in Nottinghamshire, April 20th, 1603. His mother, Catherine Gresley, seems to have had her dower secured on Colton, for, holding land here valued at £10 per annum, she was assessed for two light horsemen in the second payment of the subsidy granted to Queen Elizabeth in 1576 A.D. (*vide* Glover's Visitation Book).

Sir Thomas was twice married, and by his first wife Catherine, daughter of Sir Thomas Walsingham,\* had five sons and three daughters, Henry

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\* The Walsingham arms are Paly of six, argent and sable, a

(died, aged four years, in 1583), George, John, William, and Walsingham, Catherine (who was thrice married), Dorothy, and Catherine (?) By his second wife, Mary, widow of Henry Paston and daughter of Sir Richard Southwell, of Wood Rising, Norfolk, he left no family. His own death occurred in A.D. 1610.

In 1587 (29 Eliz.) a fine was levied between Edmund Walsingham, Edward Gresley, Simon Gresley, Thomas Sanders, complainants; and Thomas Gresley, armiger, deforciant; of the manor of Colton, and of 20 messuages, 10 cottages, a water-mill, 500 acres of land, 200 of meadow, 400 of pasture, 100 of wood, 40 of furze and heath, and 40s. rent here, and in Colwich, Admaston, Blithbury and Loxley. Sir Thomas remitted his rights to the complainants for £1,000.

George Gresley, the eldest surviving son, was created a baronet by King James, only a few days after the institution of that order, his name standing 28th upon the roll; and there are further signs of his attendance at Court, for he was one of the ten baronets who carried bannerolls at the funeral of Henry, Prince of Wales, in 1612. (Nichol's Progresses of King James.)

In the third year of King Charles I. he sat in Parliament for Newcastle-under-Lyne, and was High Sheriff for Derbyshire when the Civil War broke out in 1645 A.D.

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fess gules. The family came out of Kent. Catherine's grandfather had been Lieutenant of the Tower of London.

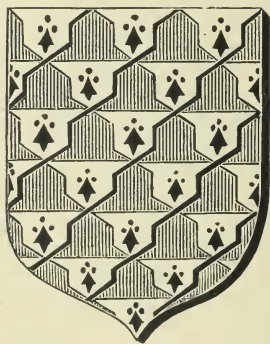


His wife Susan was the daughter of Sir Humphrey Ferrers, of Tamworth Castle, a family already related to the Gresleys, as we have before noticed. With this man our present interest in the Gresley family comes to an end, for early in the 17th century Sir Thomas and his son George sold the whole estate of Colton, including the old hall, the manor, and the advowson to their relative, Sir Walter Aston, of Tixall, for the sum of £16,000. The fine, dated 7 James 1 (1610 A.D.), Trinity Term, is as follows:—"Final agreement made in the Court of the Lord the King, at Westminster, between Walter Aston, Knight, plaintiff, and Thomas Gresley, Knight, and Mary his wife, and George Gresley, Esquire, and Susan his wife, deforciant, of the Manor of Colton, with the appurtenances, and of 22 messuages, 4 cottages, 20 tofts, 2 water mills, 22 gardens, 22 orchards, 1,100 acres of land, 400 acres of meadow, 1,300 acres of pasture, 500 acres of wood, 100 acres of heath and furze, common of pasture for all cattle, and 26s. 8d. of rent, with the appurtenances in Colton, Newland, Blythbury, Admaston, Hill and Mavesyn Ridware, Byshton and Colwich; and also of a free fishery in the water of Trent, and of the advowson of the church of Colton, and of the moiety of all, and of all kinds of tythes whatsoever, issuing, growing, or remaining in Colton. Sir Thomas and Mary, George and Susan Gresley, acknowledged the said manor to be the right of Walter, and quit claimed them to Walter Aston and his heirs for ever, for

which Walter Aston gave them £1,000." [This sum was, in fact, but one-sixteenth part of the price paid.]\* In 1611 A.D Sir Walter paid Thomas Tooth £1,000, in the church porch of Colton, for a certain messuage and lands in Blythbury,† part of the Colton Manor, which he had lately purchased of Sir Thomas and George Gresley. (v. Appendix.)

[The "Old Park" passed by the sale of the manor to the Astons, but not the "Little Hay" manor; nor the "Boughey" Hall and "Llount" properties. The Hamley Mill seems to have been in existence, being one of the two water-mills enumerated in the fine, but no mention is made of the windmill of Richard II.'s time.]

The arms of the Gresleys are "vaire ermine and gules"—*i.e.*, alternate shields of red and ermine.



Colton Hall, the principal Staffordshire home of

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\* Sir Simon Degge's letter to the third Lord Aston, containing many particulars of his grandfather, the first lord.

† "More accurately," part of the Gresley property, but no part of the actual Colton Manor?

the Gresleys for so many years, when it passed into the hands of Sir Walter Aston, was an ancient house of very considerable size, containing 80 rooms, 52 of which, according to tradition,\* were bedrooms. Here the younger members of the Aston family frequently resided during their father's second absence in Spain, and here Sir Walter Aston was himself living in A.D. 1628, as can be proved by his letters to Lord Conway, the King's Secretary of State, which are dated from this place.† To the great loss of Colton, this grand old house was burnt down through the carelessness of a servant in the latter part of Charles I.'s reign. Nor were any efforts made to rebuild it, so far as we have been able to ascertain; partly, no doubt, because of the then embarrassed condition of the Aston fortunes, partly because their older residence, Tixall Hall, standing in the immediate neighbourhood, must have made any such effort the less necessary.

Of the original manor house, exclusive of offices and outbuildings, there are no remains above ground, the late Thomas Upton, an intelligent man, who formerly worked upon the Colton Hall Farm, used to repeat what his father had told him, that it had "as many windows as there were days in the year" (?) That the present farmhouse had been considerably

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\* This agrees well enough with "Pennant's" account of Lord Aston's old house, Colton Hall (vide his journey from London to Chester, S.L.), as well as with the notes in Erdswicke's Staffordshire (Harwood's edition).

† Sir Robert Fanshawe was a friend of the Astons, and several of his poems were written in this house,

enlarged, having been the laundry of the old Hall, which stood on the "garden (Cawarden) springs" side of the existing building; and that he himself was present when, in digging the ground close to the old granary, yet standing, they came upon a flight of stone stairs, evidently an entrance to the cellars of the former house; and went some way down them, until recalled by the then tenant, which stairs, having been filled up, were still in "situ." The old Hall stood in the "near park." Evidently as in the Aston's house at Tixall, only the lower portion of the building was masonry, the upper stories being of timber; in which case very little would have survived the fire of Charles I.'s time, to be again employed in the present house and outbuildings. Excepting, therefore, the well, the stairs now filled in, possibly part of the cellarage, and some portions of offices in the present house and granary, Colton Hall has left no traces. In the field called the "Dog-kennels," at the east end of the marsh, there are (or lately were) signs of the old kennels, some brickwork remaining in the brook, where the hounds were washed. The disused road, now called "Sheep-close" Lane, leading from "the Bank Top," at the end of "Hollow" Lane, to the cottages and outbuildings which belong to Colton Hall Farm, was the former approach to Colton Hall. The present name is taken from the adjoining field. During the long drought in 1894 A.D., the marks of walls, leading down probably from the old house towards the entrance gate, were to be seen clearly enough in the grass, on the

south side of the present approach to the farm. It is interesting to observe from an old MS. in the Salt Library, describing Ridgley as situated "on the south-west bank of the Trent over against Colton Park," that the former demesne may have extended at one time to the river, its traces reappear in the names of some of the neighbouring fields, such, for instance, as "The Big Park, The Little Park, The Hilly Park, The Upper Park, The Mare Park," besides two other meadows, which are still known as the "Lower Park" meadow and the "Dog Kennels," already mentioned. An ancient map in the Salt Library contains the Hall and Park very clearly laid down, but part of the "Ashley-Hay" and "Hazlehurst" woods intervene between the Trent and the south side of the Park—whether they were subsequently inclosed within it remains uncertain. The number of swans kept by the de Wastineys and their successors (*vide* John de Caldwell's roll, and the foregoing trials for robbing the aery) must have been a great ornament, adding a further charm to the natural beauty of the site; a beauty which even the railway, quarry, and mill have failed to destroy entirely. That it was valuable hawking-ground we may gather from the name "Hern's" or "Heron's" field, where a small brook formerly ran—now sometimes corrupted into "Heames" Leasow. The Hazlehurst Wood may be traced on both sides of the river, in "Long Hurst" and "Booth Hurst" meadows. Towards the north the demesne extended to, and certainly included, "The Old" and the "Hurst" Woods, the

present "Old Wood" farm house being the keeper's lodge; the fact that the little brook, running under the rising ground on which the house stands, is called "Keeper's Brook," confirms this view. Thus far, then, for Colton Hall.

The family into whose hands the estate now passed traced their descent from Roger, son of Ralph de Aston, and the first of the name of much note in Staffordshire, who, in the latter part of the thirteenth century, received from Roger de Molend, Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, a grant of lands at Bishton and Haywood, besides the seneschalship of Eccleshall castle. His descendants continued to flourish at Haywood, and afterwards at Tixall, until the time of Sir Edward Aston, who married Amicia, daughter of Sir Thomas Lucy, of Charlecote in Warwickshire, and dying in A.D. 1597, left a large but encumbered property to his son Walter, then only 17 years of age. Walter Aston rose quickly into favour at the court of James I., was created a Knight of the Bath,\* when the king's eldest son Henry was proclaimed Prince of Wales, advanced to a baronetcy in A.D. 1611, and, a few years later, succeeded Sir William Godolphin as a gentleman of the king's privy chamber. In 1619 he went as ambassador to Spain, where he was concerned with the Earl of Bristol† in negotiating Prince Charles's marriage

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\* This dignity cost him the large sum of £1,000. Drayton, the poet, acted as his esquire on the occasion.

† The Earl of Bristol was the envoy extraordinary—Sir Walter the resident ambassador, and representative of England,



with the Infanta—an honourable charge enough, but very ill-suited to a fortune already encumbered by attendance at court, and by a disposition naturally lavish. The heavy expenses entailed by his embassy were never sufficiently repaid, so that as early as the year A.D. 1622 we find him compelled to sell a large part of his estate in order to raise £30,000.

After spending six years abroad Sir Walter returned to England with his wife and children (one daughter Honoria had died in Spain), and in A.D. 1627 was raised to the Scotch peerage by King Charles I. as Lord Aston of Forfar; besides receiving the nominal charge of the royal mulberry gardens in London,\* with a pension of £100 a year for his own life and that of his eldest son, although these appear to have been given only in answer to several urgent appeals at court. He writes from Colton to Lord Conway that same year saying “that the late duke (Buckingham) had procured him a promise from the king of £14,000, to be paid within two years, a promise which the king had that summer assured him should be fulfilled out of the parks belonging to the race of Tutbury and others; he therefore encloses a petition to that effect and entreats the Secretary to forward it.

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at Madrid. The Duke of Buckingham, writing from Spain to King James, refers to Sir Walter as “Wat Aston.” (*Vide* State papers, Domestic series.)

\* This office carried with it a house in London, probably on the site of the present Buckingham Palace.

£4,000, he adds, is due to him from the Exchequer, which, though it were paid at once, together with the £14,000, His Majesty's gift, he would yet be worse in his estate by his journey to Spain above £12,000. He relies on Lord Conway's sympathy for a gentleman on the point of perishing by His Majesty's service." (State Papers, Domestic Series B.M.)\*

The fines of the following year† (1629 A.D.) witness to his distress for money, when, together with Walter his son and heir, Devereux Aston, and William Aston, Esquires, he conveys the manors of Colton, Tixall, Haywood and Brocton, with 20 messuages, 800 acres of land, and the advowsons of Colton and Tixall, to Sir Francis Cottington, Kt., Sir Richard Tichborne, Kt., Thomas Crompton, and Richard Weston, Esquires, and to the heirs of Sir Francis, for £400. Security, we should suppose, for a loan of that amount.

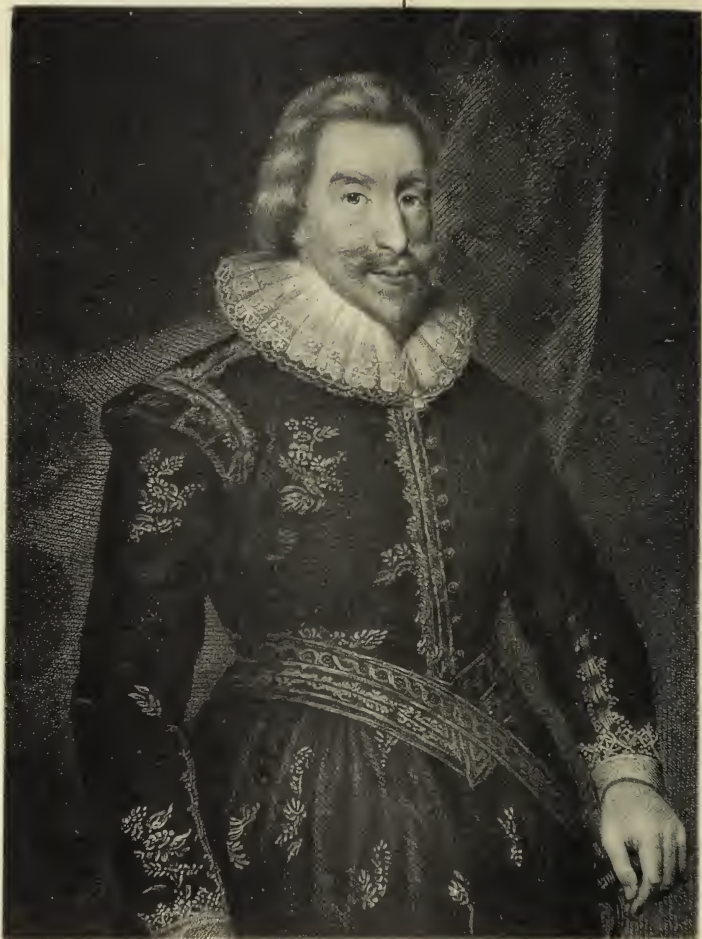
From A.D. 1635 to 1638 Lord Aston again acted as ambassador at Madrid, where he stood high in favour with the Spanish king, Philip IV. ; his return being no doubt hastened by rapidly failing health, as we gather from a letter to his newly-married daughter-in-law Catherine, wife of Herbert Aston, in which he again alludes to his embarrassed fortunes, and speaks of being still a poor suitor at court,

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\* *Vide* Appendix.

† Feet of Fines, 5 Charles 1 (Mchms), Record Office.





*Walter, 1st Lord Aston.*

suffering from a painful bodily infirmity.\* He died in the month of August, 1639. A likeness of Lord Aston, taken from a miniature by Zuccherò, belonging to the Clifford family, may be seen in the history of Tixall. It closely resembles the picture here given, from a print of the original belonging to the Blounts. There is another of his portraits, painted on panel, which hangs at the foot of the staircase at Blithfield Hall. The following curious and accurate description of this well-known courtier comes from a letter written by his friend, Sir Simon Degge, to the third Lord Aston: "For his person, it was very comely, he went very upright and straight; his skin very pure, all but his face, which was of a brown, ruddy complexion; his hair a yellow red, his beard a little sadde; he had something a high nose and a rough voice, but could have spoken very well; no drinker or swearer, of an affable courteous behaviour, and a virtuous worthy gentleman for ought that ever I saw or knew to the contrary." By his wife Gertrude, daughter of Sir Ralph Sadler, the wealthy minister of Queen Elizabeth, Lord Aston left three sons, Walter, Herbert and John, and as many daughters; Frances married Sir William Persall, of Canwell, Staffordshire; Gertrude married Henry Thimelby; and

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\* *Vide* letter to his newly-married daughter-in-law. [There is a copy of a deed, dated about this time, 2 Charles 1 (1627), in the S.L., whereby Richard Robinson, of Coulton, is bound to John Alden, Esqre, in the sum of £300.]

Constance, wife of Walter Fowler, of St. Thomas' Priory, near Stafford. The arms of Sadler, his wife's family are thus given, "or a lion rampant per fesse-azure and gules."

Walter Aston succeeded his father in the barony and estates, his mother's jointure being secured on Colton. The succession would necessarily involve considerable outlay; and £800 was obtained apparently from his wife's family on the security of 700 acres of the church manor here, not\* Colton Hall, to judge by a later fine). Feet of Fines, Stafford, Hilary, 15 Ch. I. (1640 A.D.).

Between Richard Weston, Kt., one of the Barons of the Exchequer, Thomas Crompton, Esquire, and Thomas Aston, Esquire, plaintiffs; and Walter Lord Aston, deforciant, of the Manor of Colton, otherwise Coulton, with six messuages, eight cottages, one water-mill, one dove-house, 350 acres of land, 40 acres of meadow, 150 acres of pasture, 20 acres of wood, 100 acres of furze and heath, 40 acres of moor, and †*view of Frankpledge*, with the

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\* The notice of one dove-cote, and of a single water-mill, confirms this. Compare, too, the details given in the later fine, of 1656 A.D.

† "Frank, or 'free,' pledge, is a corruption of 'Frith,' or 'peace,' pledge. It meant originally the view, or examination, of the 'Peace-pledges.' Mutual guarantee by tens being the Saxon rule through the country; so that every man, unless specially privileged, had nine such guarantees, who were bound to produce him. Latterly, view of Frank-pledge was an enquiry by the Stewards' Court into the general good conduct of those



appurtenances in Colton, Blythburie, and Admaston, and of the advowson of the church of Colton.

Walter acknowledged the said manor to be the right of the said Richard, and quitclaimed the same to the plaintiffs and to the heirs of Richard, and for this he received £800. Warned by his father's example, and under more favourable circumstances, Lord Aston might by prudent management have freed the property from incumbrances; for he does not appear to have been wanting in ability; but the outbreak of the Civil War, urging him at once into the Royalist ranks, must have rendered any such hopes abortive, had he cherished them. It became necessary to raise further supplies on his reversion of the Colton lands (in 1644 A.D.)\*—whilst in the July of the following year, that is to say immediately after the defeat of Marston Moor, when the tide was turning heavily against the King, we find him driven to pledge a jewel set with diamonds, valued at £1,500, which Philip IVth, King of Spain, had presented to Lord Aston when he was relinquishing his second embassy.

This must be the jewel of which his father wrote in a letter to the Earl of Portland, from London, March, 1638 A.D., “for yr better understanding of

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living within the jurisdiction of the Court Leet, and for receiving presentments of any matters which it was empowered to judge, and punish by fine, or otherwise.” (v. Kemble, Saxons in England, 1349, and Jones's Bradford-on-Avon, p. 80.)

\* *Vide* appendix, for money raised in 1644 A.D., by an annuity to Herbert Aston on the “Old and Hurst Woods.”

the trew estate of such things as are att present in my possession. In the iron chest are jewels and some moneys belonging to my dawter Gertrude Aston, which I had in trust to put out for her maintenance, for which she hath a bond of £1,000 from me acknowledging ye debt. I desire that the sayd iron chest may be delivered her locked up, as I shall leave it."

For this jewel, now restored to him by his sister, as well as for the security of a legacy of £500, due to her under her father's will, Lord Aston made over to Gertrude all his rights in Colton for a term of 99 years, to commence after their mother's life interest had expired, unless the legacy should be paid by the next St. Thomas' day, or, failing that, the jewel given up to her absolutely.\* How the matter was arranged we have no means of ascertaining, except thus far, that the Colton lands were not forfeited. Lord Aston shared in the memorable defence of Lichfield, which was one of the last garrisons that held out for the King, and only surrendered after a siege of 19 weeks, July, 1646 A.D.

His letters to his wife (Lady Mary Weston, daughter of the Earl of Portland), written during the siege "do great honour to his memory"; one of them concludes thus: 'This comfort I hope you will always have, that I shall in no act do anything unworthy of myself.'† As a Royalist and a Roman

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\* *Vide* Ingestre deed, appendix.

† *Vide* note to Tixall letters on the character of the second Lord Aston.

Catholic, he could look for small favour from the Parliament, and his estate was in consequence further reduced by fines and confiscations, as it had previously suffered from his devoted assistance to the royal cause. How great this was is acknowledged by the King himself, who writes "that the worst of all his trials, and the most keenly felt, is his inability to make any recompense for all that Lord Aston and others had done and suffered for him."

At this time John and Gertrude Aston appear to have been living with their mother (for of Herbert we must speak later). Lady Aston's property in Colton had been laid under a heavy annual fine of £264, subsequently lowered to £220 by the Parliamentary Commissioners. The sequestration began six years after her husband's death, and amounted to two-thirds of the whole estate.\* We find her petitioning against the letting of her Colton land from Lady-day to one Robert Robotham, for she would then lose the money spent in manuring and sowing the same the previous summer, as well as the crop of wheat and rye sown in September. She states that sixteen of her grandchildren were dependent upon her for most of their living, and prays that she may either continue holding her own land, or else have satisfaction for her outlay and leave to reap her corn. In the same year (A.D. 1650) this Colton property was let for £365 by the sequestrators, who report

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\* *Vide* appendix.

that £140 had been allowed hitherto for the maintenance of the three younger children, then grown up, being the amount of two annuities settled by their father, Sir Walter, on Herbert and John of £50 annually, and £40 on Gertrude Aston.\* The Committee, considering they were all recusants, acted with severity, and resolved that only two-thirds of this amount should be given in future to the three children, and the remaining third to Lady Aston. But the matter did not rest here, for in 1652 it was again investigated by the Commissioners, who report to London “ that they had examined on oath William Collins,† yeoman, of Colton, who affirmed that about one year before the battle of Edgehill he had paid £25 to John Aston, for one-half of his annuity, at his mother’s command.” Herbert, John, and Gertrude made oath to having received their money regularly between the time of their father’s death and the sequestration. They were still to meet with further delay of justice, however, for in A.D. 1655 we hear of their petitioning again for the third part of their annuity, the share allowed them as recusants, which request was granted.

The money levied by Parliament on Colton and some of the neighbouring villages during the Civil War, was ordered to be paid to Capt. John Bowyer, and then to Col. Chadwick for their regiments.

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\* *Vide* appendix.

† *Vide* appendix. His name occurs again in Lord Aston’s loan, 1659, A.D., and in the early parish registers.

The fines of 1656 A.D. show that Lord Aston raised £1,000 by pledging the larger moiety of Colton manor, rather more than 1,500 acres, and two water-mills, &c., we may conclude from the last entry that the Hamley mill was then in use.

FEET OF FINES, TRINITY, 1656 A.D.

Between

Baptist, Viscount Campden, and	} Plaintiffs;
Patricius, Viscount Chaworth -	

and

Walter Aston, Baronet, Lord Aston	} Deforciants;
of Forfar, and Walter Aston,	
Esquire - - - - -	

of the Manor of Colton, &c., and of 12 messuages, 12 cottages, 12 gardens, 12 orchards, two water-mills, 1,000 acres of land, 200 acres of meadow, and and 300 acres of pasture in Colton. Walter Lord Aston, and Walter Aston, acknowledged the plaintiffs rights, and quitclaimed the lands to them, and to the heirs of Baptist for ever; and for this they received from Baptist and Patricius, £1,000.

In 1658 Lord Aston sold Colton Hall, now ruined by the fire, with the "Old Wood" and the larger part of his land here, together with the Trent water-mill, to William Chetwynd, Esquire, of Hagley Park, the founder of the Chetwynd\* charity, son of the Bristol merchant, and nephew of Walter of Rugeley; most of the tenements in Colton to their several

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\* v. Mr. Chetwynd Stapleton's exhaustive account of the Chetwynds of Ingestre.

occupants, and the royalty and advowson to his brother Herbert Aston, then residing in Colton.

With this sale of Colton Hall, together with the manorial rights and advowson, our direct interest in the fortunes of Walter, second Lord Aston, ends; having followed them thus far, however, in adverse days, we may be justified in showing something of their more prosperous close, especially as the following curious description of his home life has been thought worthy of publication by the Hist. MSS. Commission. To understand it one must remember that Lord Aston, who had lived at the Court of Spain during his father's embassy, seems to have imbibed some of the ideas of the Spanish grandees. Soon after the restoration he succeeded, on the death of his maternal uncle, Ralph Sadler, to the lordship of Standon, Hertfordshire, and there began his magnificent way of living. "He had 101 persons in his family, the table was served with three courses, each of 20 dishes, brought in by 20 men, who stamped up the great stair like thunder at every course (!) my lord had four servants behind his own chair. The servants all dined together in the hall, and what was left being thrown together into a tub, two men bore it on their shoulders to the court gate, where every day 40 or 50 poor people were served with it. When my lord did not go hawking in the afternoon, he always played at ombre\* with his two sons for an hour; and at four

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\* A kind of "quadrille"—played with cards by three persons.



o'clock retired to a covered seat in his vineyard ; there he sat alone and none durst approach him ; at 5 o'clock his chariot, which was made so narrow that none could sit by him (!), with a pair of his six grey Flanders mares, took a 'trole' about the Park for 5 or 6 miles, he returned at 7 and at 8 would be in bed. He always lay in bed without pillow, bolster, or night-cap ; winter and summer he rose at 4, and entertained himself with books, until it was time to go a-hunting or hawking at wild ducks. He would never allow any but hunted venison at his table. Every day but Sunday one buck was killed at least, but most commonly a brace. He never made, or returned any visit : the court and address of that county (Herts) being made to him. Thus my lord lived, till his son prevailed on him to return to Tixall. This was a great cross to his lady, who liked this way of living, and now, being so far removed from her dear daughter Southcote (wife of Sir John Southcote), she grew melancholy, and lost her wits, keeping almost perpetual silence, and refusing nourishment. Not long after his lordship died (1678 A.D.), aged 69, and his corpse was attended from Tixall to Stafford by about 1,000 people." (The writer of this account had resided at Standon for three or four months every year when a lad.)

Herbert, the ambassador's second son, had acted as his father's secretary in Spain ; and after their return from Madrid married Catherine, daughter of Sir John Thimelby, Bart., of Irnham, in Lincoln-

shire.\* The marriage, which proved in every way a most happy one, had long been urged upon her brother by his sister Constance, who was ardently attached to them both. Her letters written to her brother from Colton, on the subject, are to be seen in the Tixall Collection, and are very curious.† She dwells much on her fear that Lord Aston would not be able to provide sufficiently for his son to satisfy the Thimelby family; but says of her friend—"She is so rich in herself that none can be poore that has the possession of so 'unvalleuable' a jewel. O, 'tis a thousand pities you should be parted, she is so just for you and you so just for her, that may I be miserable if I do not think you will be the happiest lovers in the world;" and declares that if her father cannot find some fortune for his son to marry upon, "all the world could not have invented a more killing news than this will be to me." What she so earnestly and, as it is proved, wisely desired, was brought about in A.D. 1638.‡ We have her father's letter of that date to his new daughter-in-law, saying—"You come into a family, although united in true affection unto one another, yet divided in the condition of our fortune. I cannot promise you success, for I am not master of it,

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\* The arms of Thimelby are "argent, 3 pales and 4 mullets in bend sable.

† *Vide* Appendix.

‡ On St. Simon and St. Jude's day, October 28th.  
(*Vide* Tixall letters.)





*Old Belmore. Front from N.E.*



*Old Belmore from N.W.*

but my utmost endeavour shall not be wanting." Lord Aston could only make over to his son a small property in Colton; and here Herbert Aston built himself and his wife a house, which he named Bellamore, "because it was finished by the benevolence and assistance of his friends" (*Bell amore*, Italian for "good love") and\* very probably with a further reference to his wife, as we gather from one of the Tixall letters. The house, which is built of stone, with a deep porch and the usual mullioned windows, of that date, is still inhabited, but its proportions have been much injured by the removal of the upper storey, and the original gabled roof, and by the addition of some unsightly buttresses and an outbuilding.† A small, and distant, view of the original Bellamore house, showing the gables, occurs in a drawing at the Salt Library. The stone removed was employed in making the boundary wall it is said. In the old hall Miss Oldham kept

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\* Not *Bellamour* (as if derived from the French), although that form has of late years been generally adopted. The original spelling of *Bellamore* given by Herbert Aston and his wife, both highly educated people, and the builders of the house, ought to be retained. It is a mistake, also, to speak of Bellamore as a distinct district of the parish; it has no claim whatever to be so considered; what is now called "Bellamore End" was *always the Town (i.e., Colton) end*, (Vestry Book, 1804 A.D. — "Bellamore" was only the name Herbert Aston gave his house (c. 1639 A.D.), nor should the Bishton road be called Bellamour-lane, as it has been wrongly named in the late map.

† The views here given are from photographs  
by the Rev. C. F. L. Barnwell.

her day school for the Colton girls for many years. Sir Simon Degge's account of Bellamore is as follows:—"There is now a third hall in Colton, called Bellamore, built by Herbert Aston, Esqre, brother to ye Lord Walter Aston; which was so called because ye same was built by ye love and kindness of his friends, by way of benevolence."

Here Herbert Aston and his wife lived happily together, beloved and respected by their children, and by all who knew them, escaping, in great measure perhaps from their straitened means, the worst dangers and anxieties of that trying time. Their names occur, when in 1650 A.D. Humphrey Webb and Thomas Butler pay £60 as plaintiffs, in a fine with Lord Aston and Mary his wife, Herbert Aston, Esquire, and Katherine his wife, Robert Robotham, Esquire, and Simon Degge, gentleman, as deforciant, of 20 acres of land, 10 of meadow, and 10 of pasture in Colton, the land being pledged, or sold, it is not certain which, for that amount.

It appears that Herbert had received with his wife an annuity of £80 a year, secured on her father's property at Irnham, Lincolnshire.

We find one William Wardle petitioning the sequestrators in 1652\* for powers to examine into his claim on the Irnham estate, then under sequestration, for this rent-charge, which he had bought of Herbert Aston, and into its former payment to himself, and that his own statement on oath might

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\* *Vide* appendix. Royalist compositions.



be taken by the Lincolnshire Commissioners and reported to London. Six years later, as before noticed, Herbert Aston made some small additions to his Bellamore land, when the Colton property was sold by his brother.

In A.D. 1655, Catherine his wife was taken from him when only forty years of age. The account of her deathbed, written by her husband, is proof sufficient how strong and deep their attachment was, and how good a Christian she must have been.\* Were more needed, one sentence from a letter of her sister Winefred to Herbert Aston might be quoted here. She (Catherine) never writ without this conjuration, "Be sure you infinitely love and honore Mr. Aston, who makes me the happiest creature in the world." Of their children, John, Herbert, Walter, Catherine, Gertrude, Frances, Mary, and Constance, we know but little, except from the letters of their aunt, Winnifred Thimelby, superior of a nunnery at Louvain, in Flanders, who kept up a constant correspondence with her brother-in-law and his family, to all of whom she was much attached,† to her care Herbert Aston entrusted two

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\* Appendix to Bellamore letters.

† Expressions like these occur continually in her correspondence. Writing to Herbert Aston, June 24, 1677, she says, "All of Bellamore may doe what they will, for t'is impossible to mistrust kyndness ther."

At another time, writing to Herbert Aston about his daughter Katherine, then at Louvain, she speaks of her as "always doeing what she shud doe, yet for all her perfection, the name of her

of his daughters for education. Katherine, the eldest, subsequently became a member of this convent, in which another of her aunts—Gertrude Aston, widow of Henry Thimelby,—had also taken the veil.

Thus, as might be supposed, letters were continually passing between Bellamore and Louvain, which are marked by every token of mutual respect and affectionate interest. Writing on one occasion to his daughter, Herbert Aston concludes thus:—  
“Though I was but a few days at Bellamore, being forced to go into Gloucestershire, yet I was with my Lady Bagot and cousin Wells. They and all at Colton, George Wright\* most extraordinarily, present their services to you. I have set Bellamore, and £20 a year next the house. I sold likewise my horses and four cows; and my house is likely to be better looked to and I pleased, since I am here childless, to be servantless, and houseless, and thereby more careless, but not one whit of you and your three sisters,—you are all to my wish and satisfaction, and therefore be sure of the utmost endeavour for you of your affectionate father.” (*Vide Appendix.*)

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brother John, or Bellamore, brings fresh blood into her cheeks which witnesses she is alive still.”

And in a letter to Herbert, expressing her anxious desire to have another of his daughters entrusted to her care, she writes, “Keat (*sic.*) gives so great, so very great, a satisfaction to all that everyone desires more of the broode.”

\* One of the older tenants holding land in Colton, under the Aston's (*vide* deeds in the appendix.)

Towards the close of his life, Mr. Herbert Aston narrowly escaped from being involved in the meshes of the Popish Plot of A.D. 1680, for which Lord Stafford was beheaded.\* The account is specially interesting, for it appears that they attempted to make Bellamore the scene of the supposed conspiracy, and we give it therefore at length. John Morrall, a barber, declared on the trial of Lord Stafford “ that Mr. Dugdale, on the 6th of August was a twelve-month, sent for me to the White Horse in Ridgley, and there, when I came to him, told me that I knew as much of the plot as he. I told him I was innocent of the thing. He swore, with a great oath, I knew as much as he— Then I told him, if he knew no more of it than I did, he knew no more than my Lord Mayor’s great horse did. Then he took me aside : ‘ Come,’ said he, ‘ You are a poor man and live poorly, I can put you into a way whereby you can live gallantly : I will give you £50 in hand if so be you will swear against Mr. Howard, Sir James Simmons, Mr. Herbert Aston, and other (Roman Catholic) gentlemen of the country, that they were at such meetings at Mr. Herbert Aston’s (Bellamore) upon the conspiracy of the plot.’ ” Nothing material was at the trial objected against Morrall’s character or evidence ; whereas Dugdale (the companion of the infamous Oates, Bedloe, and Dangerfield), had been

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\* *Vide* account of Lord Stafford’s trial, November, 1680 A.D. (S.L.). A paper in Mr. Whitgreave’s possession, believed to be in the handwriting of Lord Aston’s agent (his successor), brings some very weighty and specific charges against Dugdale.

convicted of embezzling the men's wages when acting as Lord Aston's agent, and had sworn to be revenged on Lord Aston for discharging him, as was proved by Sir Walter Bagot and Mr. Phillips, the Rector of Tixall, to whom Dugdale had formerly denied all knowledge of the plot. The death of Herbert Aston occurred early in A.D. 1689.\*

The eldest of his sons, John, appears to have taken an active part in Colton affairs, for we find him serving in 1693 as overseer of the poor, and in 1692, 1706,† and again in 1719 as churchwarden.

In 1691 (2 Wm. and Mary) a fine was levied between John Aston, Esquire, and Thomas Doxey, plaintiffs; and Richard Wiggin, Charles Wiggin, and Simon Wiggin, deforciant, of one messuage, 60 acres of land, 10 acres of meadow, and 40 of pasture, common of pasture for all cattle, and common of turbary, in Colton. Richard, Charles, and Simon surrendered all rights to John and his heirs for ever, receiving £160. John Aston died childless, the last survivor of Herbert's family,‡ in 1724; but though buried here, there is no monument to them in Colton Church. As they left no direct heirs, the

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\* The parish register gives July 9th, 1689, as the date of Herbert Aston's burial.

† *Vide* an old vestry book.

‡ He was buried here December 30th, 1724 A.D.; Mary Aston was buried April 11, 1704; Frances Aston, June 20, 1709; Herbert, April 16, 1712; Walter, July 6, 1715. Katherine died in the nunnery when quite young to the great grief of her aunt the abbess Winefrid (*vide* appendix).

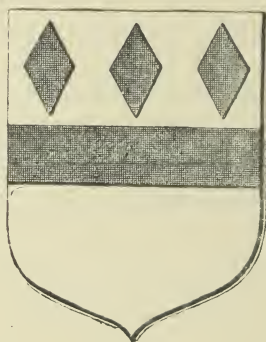
Colton property went back to the elder branch of the family ; and having descended to James the fifth and last Lord Aston of the main line, passed to his two daughters, by his wife Lady Barbara Talbot, daughter of George, 14th Earl of Shrewsbury.

The Honble. Mary Aston, the elder of these co-heiresses, was married at Worksop, in Nottinghamshire, A.D. 1766, to her cousin Sir Walter Blount, of Mawley Hall and Soddington, in Worcestershire, and inherited the Colton estate ; the younger, Barbara, married a Clifford, and carried into that family the Tixall and Haywood properties

A private Act was passed through Parliament in the 10th year of George III. 1770 A.D. "For establishing and confirming all sales and divisions made and to be made by virtue of the powers contained in the several marriage settlements of Sir Walter Blount, Baronet, and the Honourable Dame Mary, his wife, and of the Honourable Thomas Clifford and the Honourable Barbara, his wife." Amongst other Colton property, the Manor or Lordship of Colton, the lands commonly known by the name of "Bellamore Farm," situate and being in Colton, and then late in the occupation of Styck, widow, are mentioned ; also the farm known as "Newlands," occupied by Thomas Hicken ; together with another farm in Colton, held by Thomas Smith—meaning that at the Newlands generally known as "Ash's Farm," from the late tenant of the Bonney family. It appears from this Act that most of the Aston land, including

Tixall, fell to Barbara Clifford's share; Lady Blount taking the personalty, with Colton manor and lands.

The arms of the Astons are "argent, a fess sable, in chief three lozenges of the last."



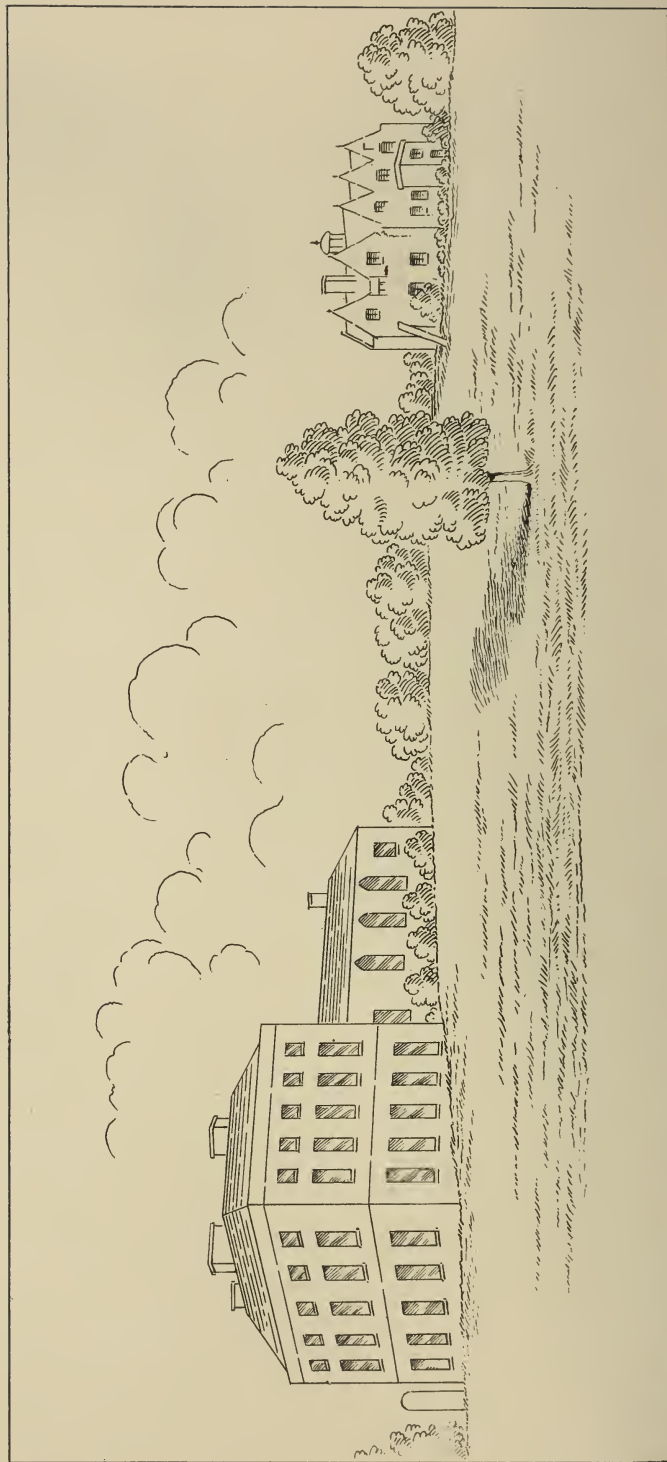
Sir Walter Blount, in right of his wife the owner of Bellamore and of the remaining Aston property in Colton, was descended from the Norman Lord of Guisnes, surnamed "Le Blond," and numbered among his ancestors that "warlike Blount," celebrated by Shakespeare in *Henry IV.*, who, when sent with gracious offers from the king to the rebel camp at Shrewsbury, is thus greeted by Hotspur:—

"Welcome Sir Walter Blount! and would to God  
You were of our determination!  
Some of us love you well; and even those some  
Envy your great deservings and good name  
Because you are not of our quality,  
But stand against us as an enemy."

Being "semblably furnished like the king himself," he was afterwards slain in the battle by the Earl of Douglas. The Lords Mountjoy, before referred to,







Modern Bellamour, 1840.

Old Belamore, 1840.

were a branch of the same distinguished line. Four sons were born of this marriage with Mary Aston—Walter Edward, who died in infancy; Walter, his father's successor in the baronetcy and Worcestershire estates, born 1788; Edward, born July, 1779; and George, born 1781.

After her husband's death Lady Blount frequently resided in Colton, and built (circa A.D. 1796) the larger house at Bellamore for her second son, Mr. Edward Blount. The two houses, standing side by side, suggest a curious contrast between the style of accommodation required by a country gentleman about the middle of the seventeenth century and that which has become common in the nineteenth, for some additions have been made to the modern house since it was first built: notably the removal of the room which served the Blounts as a chapel, and the building of the present dining-room with the story above it on the east side, which is not shewn in the accompanying photograph.

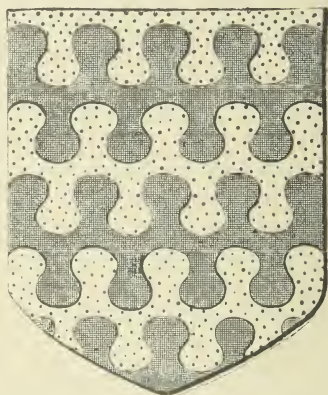
In A.D. 1805, the Honble Mary Lady Blount was burnt to death, by a\* spark from the fire falling upon her dress, when on a visit to her youngest son's house at Basford. About twenty years afterwards her son, Mr. Edward Blount, sold the Bellamore property to Mr. J. Oldham,† a retired Indian judge, of the Bengal presidency, at whose death in 1857, it was purchased by the late owner, Mr. T. B.

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\* *Vide* annual register, January 30th, 1805 A.D.

† The exact date was October 16th, 1824 A.D.

Horsfall, formerly member of Parliament for Liverpool, who made considerable additions to the estate, and, on his death, left it entailed, together with his other land here (the Parchfields and Colton House, the site of the Church manor, &c.), subject to his wife's life interest, on his son Henry, by his third wife, Miss Leeke. Mr. H. Horsfall, by his marriage with Miss Stewart, has now a son and heir named Thomas. The eldest surviving son of the late Mr. Edward Blount of Bellamore, is the well-known banker and leading English resident in Paris. Another son, lately deceased, was Mr. Walter Aston Blount, "Norroy King-at-Arms."



The arms of the Blounts are "barry nebule of six, or and sable."

Formerly the road from Rugeley to Colton, called the Mill Lane, entered Bellamore Hall grounds at an oak tree near the gate lodge on the Rugeley Road, and passing through the orchard, across the yard, conveniently for the old Hall, turned on one side by the dell towards Bishton, and on the other towards

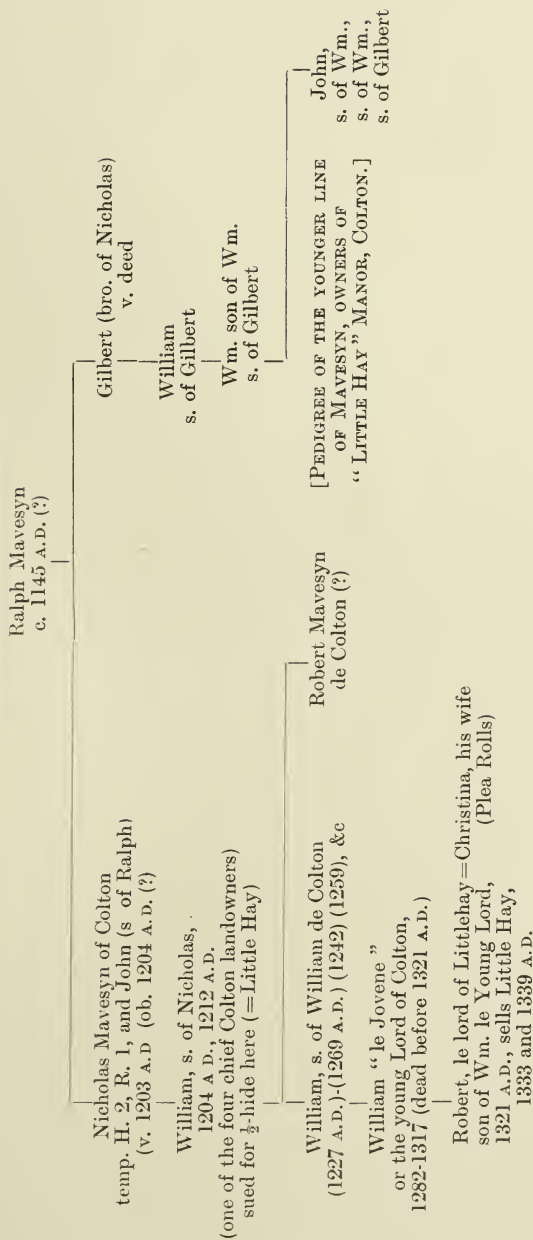
Admaston; this road may yet be traced in dry weather here and there, on one side of it the land pays tithe, but not on the other, having belonged originally to different manors—a glance at the map will show that this course made a much more direct line for Admaston. The Colwich lodge gate stood opposite to the lane leading into “Wilmer” field, until Mr. Horsfall removed it to its present site, and built the existing lodge. “Wilmer” is, I believe, only a corruption of Windmill field, for the windmill already mentioned in early deeds seems to have stood there [*v.* description of Clerk’s land 17 Ch. 2.  $1\frac{1}{2}$  acres being in “Windmill” field, namely, that which was exchanged for the croft behind the blacksmith’s house, with Mr. Horsfall]

The Manor of “Little Hay” (*i.e.*, the small enclosure), is unquestionably the half hide mentioned in Domesday, belonging to Almar the Saxon, which passed to Asselin, the Mavesyn ancestor, soon after the Conquest; it extends to Blithford, on one side, on the other to “Bentley” farm at Hill Ridware, belonging to Mavesyn Ridware parish. This is very observable, indicating, as it seems, an earlier origin for this manor than that of parishes; while it explains, as we before observed, the Domesday Survey’s description “In Colte (abbreviation for Coltone) is another half hide, and it pertains to Coltone,” *i.e.*, the chief part of the estate together with the manor house is situated in Colton parish. It passed, as we have seen, to the descendants of the “younger” line of Asselin (de Mavesyn);

whether this was by inter-marriage with Almar's family, or not, must remain uncertain; and is styled "*a fourth part of the Manor of Colton*" in writings of the fourteenth century—not improbably, because of the four chief landowners here—De Wasteney, de Colton, de Little-hay, and Griffin; and then only roughly speaking. Certainly it never belonged to the Wasteney; for it pays tithe, which no part of their estate has ever done; moreover, as stated already, William le Jovene, or the "young lord" of Littlehay, payed for le Mareschal (witness the P.M. Inquisition of 1278 A.D.) the annual merk rent, due to Hosé; which had been originally claimed by Ralph Hose, in the time of King John, from Nicholas Mavesyn, William the young lord's ancestor. From Nicholas, the son of Ralph (*v.* previous Pipe and Assize rolls), who, judging from his son's age, probably covers the interval between c. 1160 A.D. to 1203 A.D.; the "Little Hay" lands passed to William son of Nicholas, placed second among the four Colton landholders in 1204 A.D., and the same who was sued in 1212 A.D. for  $\frac{1}{2}$  hide here, representing not improbably this very manor of "Little Hay," which was so valued in the Domesday Survey. William, son of Nicholas Mavesyn, was succeeded by William, son of William (de Colton), whose name occurs between 1227 A.D. and, I think, until 1269, on several occasions, although it is difficult among the successive Williams to define exactly the limit of each one's tenure. It is evident that the Plea roll of 1227 A.D., between William, son of William,



# DESCENT OF THE MAVESYNS OF "LITTLE HAY" MANOR.



One *Robert Mavesyn de Colton*, attests a Mavesyn deed with Hugh, son of Thomas de Colton, and others, Hugh Bret and Walerand Bret, &c (c. H. 3). He *may* have been another son of Wm. son of Nicholas Mavesyn.



Robert the parson of Colton, and others, *v.* Nicholas de Alewy, can only relate to the Lord of "Littlehay," because William de Wasteneys then living was the son of Philip. In 1256 (Close rolls), John, the priest, held land of William, son of William, while in that of 1269, he follows William de Wasteneys as one of the four Colton proprietors. William, son of William, grants land "in my fee of Colton," c. 1240 A.D. (*v.* Ingestre deed, appendix). The successor of this William son of William, was William "le Jovene," seynur, with whom we meet c. 1282—1320. He was dead, certainly in 1324 A.D., for so the Sheriff reported. Whether there was another William besides who bore the Mavesyn of Colton name, is not absolutely clear, but it is more likely that the 80 years were covered by the lives of William son of William, and of William "le Jovene," seynur de Colton. In 1263 A.D., William "le Jovene" interfered to protect Nicholas, the slayer of Adam son of Hereward, when guarded in Colton Church, as already mentioned, and in 1278, Agatha de Morhay sued him for pasture rights here (*v. supra*). A Blithfield deed of 1322 A.D. shews that Robert, son of William "le youngelord of Littlehay," sold the Little Hay manor to Richard de Blithfield, and Cecilia, his wife; which Richard is held to be seventh in descent from Herman the Saxon, lord of Crombe and Hul-Crombe, in Worcestershire, as well as of Charteley and Blithfield in this county. The next year, Robert, still called "de Littlehay," for he retained a life-interest in the manor, acknow-

ledges himself bound to Richard, lord of Blithfield in the sum of £20, which he covenants to pay down at Blithfield on the ensuing Xmas. The subsidy roll of 6 Ed. 3, assesses the same Robert “de Littlehay” at x<sup>s.</sup> a large amount. In a fine of 17 Ed. 2 (1324 A.D.) Richard de Blithfield sues Robert de Littlehay for a fourth part of Colton manor, save one messuage, forty acres of land, and three acres of moor, in the same manor. Robert, concedes it, and is allowed to retain the land for life—at the nominal yearly rent of one rose—he undertaking also to render the usual services due to the overlord. Anselm le Mareschal (?) Two years later, Richard de Blithfield having the estate of Robert de Hampton in the wood called “Littlehay,” in Colton, conveys it by deed to Robert “de Littlehay,” with rights of herbage, and necessary allowances of timber for hay bote, and hearth bote (*i.e.*, for repair of fences, &c., and for fuel), to hold during his life time, the grant to be forfeited if he infringed the conditions concerning waste, or underletting; among the witnesses to this deed was Reginald de Wastineys, of Colton. Does this wood represent the excepted forty acres of the former grant? and did it pass to Robert de Hampton for the debt of £20 owed him, according to the Pleas of 18 Ed. 2 (1325 A.D.) by the late William le Jovene? Certainly in this instance, the clause as to waste proved necessary. For, in 1339 A.D. (12 Ed. 3), we find Richard de Blythfield suing Robert de Littlehay, of Colton, for causing waste and de-

struction in his houses and woods in Colton, which he had demysed to him for the life of Robert; and he stated that he had demysed to the said Robert, for his life, the *fourth part of the Manor of Colton*, and he had caused waste and destruction by pulling down a sheep-fold (bercariam) worth 20s., a piggery worth 20s., and by cutting down and selling 100 oak trees, each worth 3s., 60 arabes each worth 1s. 6d., and 18 apple trees each worth 2s.; the Sheriff was therefore ordered to proceed in person to the said houses and woods, and make inquisition on oath respecting the alleged damage, and to return the inquisition into court on the octaves of St. John the Baptist; a postscript states that the Sheriff did so at the quindene of Michaelmas; and it found that the said Robert had caused waste by destroying an ox-stall (boveriam) worth  $\frac{1}{2}$  marc; and by selling 61 oak trees, each worth 15d.; four arabes, each worth 4d.; 18 pear trees each worth 4d.; Richard therefore is to recover seisin of the said tenements, by view of the jury who had made the inquisition; and triple damages, according to the statute (*i.e.*, £13. 16s. 2d.) The injury was clearly considerable (can arabes = arabras, *i.e.*, “white” wood trees generally—*v. du Cange*?). The new owners retained possession of the manor, until the marriage of Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Richard de Blithfield, with Sir Ralph Bagot, of Bagots Bromley, carried “Little-hay,” together with Blithfield, into the hands of the Bagots, with whom it has continued ever since—being in Chet-

wynd's time (Charles II.) "the appanage of the younger brothers of that line" (*v.* MS. History of Pirehill Hundred); but now entailed on the head of the family, with the other Bagot estates ("Finnes-hay" which was erroneously stated, *v.* former edition, to be in this manor, is in Bromley). We next find the "Littlehay" estate forming part of the dower of Beatrix, wife of Sir John Bagot; and settled subsequently in 37 Hen. 6 (1459 A.D.), by the eldest son, Richard Bagot, on John, the younger brother, Isabella his wife and their heirs—or, failing heirs by Isabella, on the next heirs of John Bagot. Sir John Gresley, the chief Colton land owner, being the first witness to the conveyance.\* A separate deed of John and Isabella Bagot appoints Richard Griffin and John Clerk, their attorneys to receive possession.

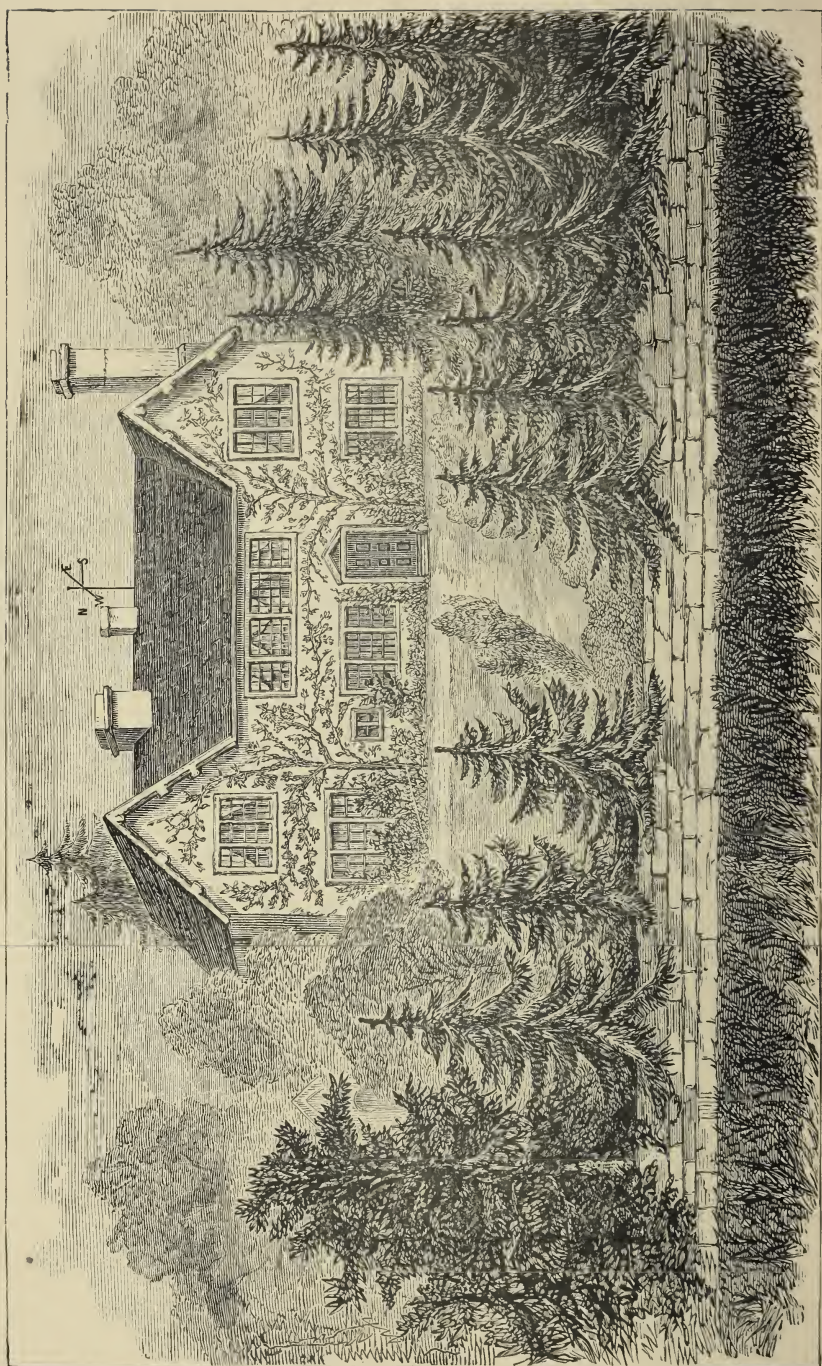
In 25 Hen. 8 (1534 A.D.), a fine was levied between Thomas Skrymshawe and others, on the one part, and Sir Lewis Bagot, Kt., on the other; by which Sir Lewis gave up all rights in the manors of Blithfield, Bromley = Bagot, and Colton (Little Hay), receiving £1,600 sterling; probably a formal surrender, with a view to re-entailing the land, or, otherwise, the security for so large a sum. In Queen Elizabeth's time, Anthony Bagot, a distinguished member of his family, a courtier, and chief follower of the ill-fated Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex, was owner of "Little-hay." His

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\* For all these deeds *vide* appendix.







MANOR HOUSE (LITTLE HAY).

last will, which we shall here insert, is interesting for its bequests to several servants, apparently Colton people, as well as to the poor of Colton generally.

THE WILL OF ANTHONY BAGOT OF COLTON.

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In the name of God, Amen, I, Anthony Bagott, of Coulton in the countye of Stafford, being sicke in body, but of perfect and good memory (thanks be given to God) doe make this my last Will and Testament, in manner and forme as followeth: "First I comit and bequeath my soule into the hands of Almighty God, hoping to bee saved only by the bloode of Christ.—Secondly, I comitt my bodye to the earth, to be buried in Blithfield Church, by my wife, desiring such solemnization of my funerall, as my executors shall thinke meete.—Thirdly, as for my goodes, my will is that they be soe disposed of according to former covenants; excepting £30, which I am indebted to my sister, the Lady Bromley, wch my will is, should be paid out of my goodes by my executors: and such other goodes as I shall by this my last will bequeath to others. Imprimis, I give to my three sisters, Mrs. Okeover, Mrs. Trew, and Mrs. Kinersley, three duckits (ducats) which are in a box in my cupboard with my evidences. Item, I give to my servants as followeth: Ffirst to John Arnalde\* foure pounds,

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\* The names "Arnald," "Hunt," "Sherbrooke," and "Ash," are all from a Colton source.

then to Anthony Hunt, three pounds, next to William Cowper three poundes, and to William Copping one pounde; and to Winifred Dent three pounds, and to Anne Ffoaden three pounds and to Eleanor Sherbrooke one pounde, to Margery Milner three pounds. Item I give to the poore of Coulton two pounds, to be paid by my executors within a month after my funerall, within which time alsoe my will is that my servants be payed their legacies above mentioned. Item, of this my last will and testament I constitute and entreate my sister, the Lady Bromley,\* and my brother Walter Bagott, of Blithfield, Esqre., to be myne executors, and give unto eyther of them an old angell,† which bee in the forenamed box; hoping they will see this my last will performed according to the trust which I repose in them. Item, I give to my daughter a treble Sovereaine, and to my sonne-in-lawe a double Elizabeth Sovereaine, and to my grandchild Katherine the next best piece of gould which is in the same place. In witness whereof I put my hand and seal this 18th day of June, anno. dom. 1622. ANT. BAGOTT.

In the presence of us underwritten,

Abdie Birch, Sim: Ash, John Carswell.

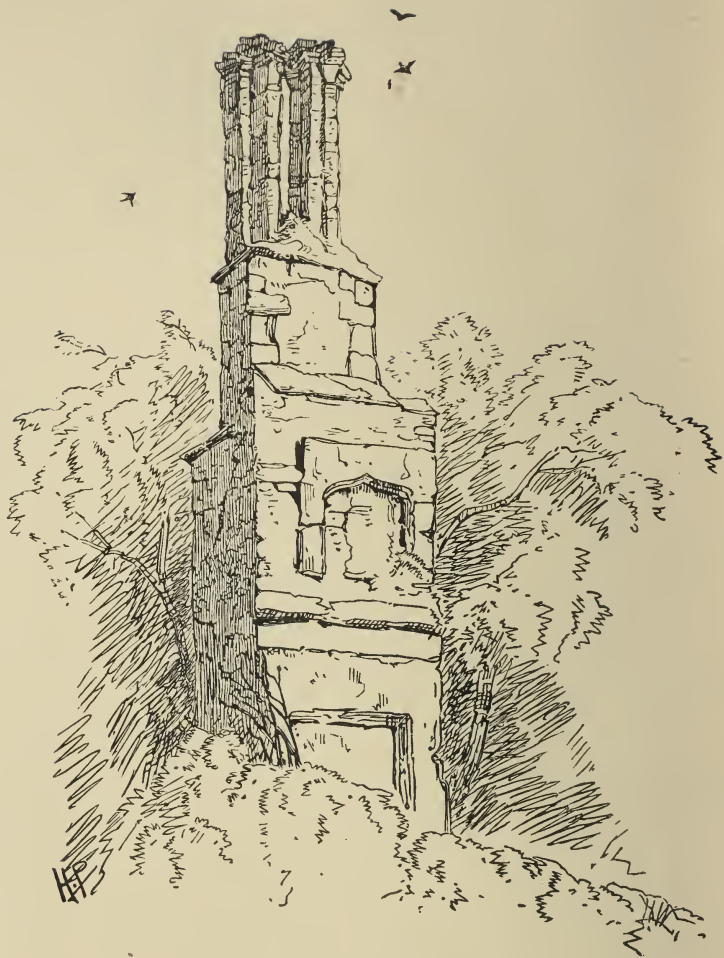
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\* The Lady Bromley, was sister to Mrs. Katherine Bagott—Anthony Bagott's wife—being the other daughter and co-heiress of Lowe, of Tamhorne.

† The first angels were struck in Ed. IV. reign—they were gold coins bearing the figure of the Arch-angel Michael piercing the dragon—on the reverse, “a ship with a large cross for the mast.”—(Humphrey's C. C. Manual, vol. 2, p. 453.)







CHIMNEYS OF FORMER MANOR HOUSE OF LITTLE HAY.



\*Ralph, third son of Walter Bagot, lived and died here; William Bagot, son of Sir Edward, also occupied the manor. In 1646 A.D., the "Little Hay" estate was valued at £28 14s. 7d. yearly to Sir Hervey Bagot. In 1702, and again in 1729, it is mentioned as Sir Walter Bagot's. The old manor house, a half-timbered building, covered with rough cast, was taken down in 1846 A.D., having become unsafe for habitation, owing solely to the decayed state of the floors; for the strength of the walls is still remembered by the men employed in their destruction; to mark the site, two of its picturesque Tudor chimneys, together with the ancient hearth, were spared by Lord Bagot's orders, at the suggestion of the late Mr. H. W. Holland, then tenant of the manor farm. The following statement of the boundaries of the Manor is taken from the last perambulation of "Little Hay," declared at the Court Baron of the Right Honble. William Lord Bagot, lord of the aforesaid Manor, held by adjournment at the house of Mr. Richard Parr, of Colton, on Tuesday, January 3rd, 55 George 3. (1815 A.D.)

The Jurors† upon their oath present that all

\* Book on the family history of the Bagots, at Blithfield.

† THE NAMES OF THE JURORS' SWORN.

FRANCIS SPENCER.	THOMAS HODGKINSON.	WILLIAM WEBB.
EDWARD SMITH.	WILLIAM ONLEY.	CHARLES HOLLAND.
JOHN MOXON.	CHARLES MARSH.	JOHN STYCH.
JOHN HAWKINS.	ROBERT SHERRATT.	THOMAS DICKEN.

AFFEERORS. { THE REV. CHARLES LANDOR. } SWORN.  
 { MR. CHARLES TOWNSEND. }

persons who owe suit and service to this Court, and have not appeared or essoigned\* this day, in the sum of threepence each.

They likewise present that there is a double chief rent due to the Lord, for a 'relief upon the death of every freeholder dying seised of any messuage or lands within this Manor, and that the same is due to the Lord upon every alienation of any freehold messuage of lands within the same.

They also present on their oath "the limits or boundaries" of the Manor of Little-hay aforesaid, and which they have surrounded and carefully traversed by a perambulation made at this Court, held 3rd day of December last, &c. "Beginning at the Manor house, in the holding of Mr. Richard Parr, then go down the street to the house at the corner of Hollow lane, and continue up the said lane by the Bank Top, and the Lawn Barn, down Longley Common, and through the gate on the south side of Hurst Woods, along the great road to the road leading to the Hurst Wood gate at the Hadleys—from thence along the road leading to Stonyford lane,† and all the way down Stonyford lane to the Lichfield and Uttoxeter Turnpike Road at the finger post, and across that road along the way leading to Nether Bentley House.‡ From

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\* Esoigned, from *essonium*, "an excuse."

† Stonyford Lane, is the lane connecting the Blithbury Road with Hill Ridware.

‡ Bentley House, is the house at the corner as you enter Hill Ridware.

thence across the Bentley meadow, up the old road, through the plantation, and by the stone quarry round upper Bentley House, by the Dial and the end of the stable to a gate at the end of the further sunk fence—from thence to the Lower Terry Lount, and then north about forty yards to the boundaries of Mavesyn Ridware parish, and round the boundaries to Blithbury Green. From Blithbury Green by the said boundaries round Blyth farm, by the further Blyth to the turnpike road, then to Blythford, from thence up Goldsworth Lane (still along the said boundaries) into Goldsworth Leasow, up to a young oak tree, where a stile formerly stood upon a late footway leading to the Lane, and along Hobacre and little Hobacre to the three Lane ends, opposite Mr. Sherratt Wild's Leasow gate, and along the lane leading to a Barn of Messrs. George Webb and James Webb, or one of them, upon Admaston School lands. Now leave the boundaries of Mavesyn Ridware parish, and go down by the north side of the Hurst Woods to the north side of Longley Common, or to Finney's Hill, down Featherbed Lane to Stockwell Heath. From thence round Samuel Salt's 'Calf Croft' into John Lyon's meadow (an encroachment), back again to Stockwell Heath Bogs, from thence into the Lows with the footpath to the Crofts' Leasow, from thence up the footpath in Thomas Watson's Croft, late William Yates', leading to the Manor House, aforesaid." Of the woods, which formerly covered great part of the estate, only a few trees near the "New-

land's" road, and here and there a solitary oak, notably one in the Croft before the present farm house, now remain; fortunately the names of the fields continue to preserve the fact, which early deeds have recorded; and bear witness to the loss that the landscape has suffered in their removal. We are indebted to the kindness of Mrs. Smyth, daughter of Mr. Walkeden, a former occupier of the Manor, for the accompanying drawing of the old house of the Bagots. The engraver has done very little justice to its merits, particularly with respect to the chimneys before mentioned, which he has mistaken for a single oblong block. A second sketch from the late Mr. Horsley's\* pencil has corrected the error, and given an accurate view of their present condition.

The old deer park of Henry IIIrd's time has become part of Lord Bagot's property, but its memory is still preserved in the "Park" lane, connecting it with Stockwell Heath. Though now divided into fields, and let with the "Little-hay farm," it forms no portion of the "Manor" of Little-hay. Inclosed originally by the De Wasteneys (*vide* John de Caldwell's roll, where a charge for mending the paling occurs), it passed from the Gresleys' to Sir Walter Aston, in 1610, and was conveyed by Walter (2nd) Lord Aston to Sir Harvey Bagot, in trust for Richard Bagot and his heirs, for the sum of £660—

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\* Mr. H. H. Horsley was tenant of "Little Hay," under Lord Bagot, for several years.





OLD PARK FENCE.



March 3, 1659 A.D. The remarkable fence surrounding it, a sketch of which is here inserted, has been in many places cut away ; we can only hope as much to its improvement from the agricultural, as it is undoubtedly to its injury from the antiquarian side. However, the boundaries may yet be traced, and will be found marked with crosses on the accompanying map, as follows :—Starting from Mr. Nichols' barn, beyond the "Crab tree" above Stockwell Heath, the boundary fence passes to the top of the bank dividing the "Barn Close" from Mr. Stanley's field, called Hadley, thence turns to the right down the Barn Close, and so to "Bowling Alley," or "*Mere*" Lane, following along the Lane as far as to the "Newlands' road, and the pit at the corner where the lane and the road meet, then over the stile and by the footpath again to the corner of the 'Far Wood,' thence to the north end of the 'Far Wood,' and so following the untitheable land border to the Stockwell Heath Barn." The fence consists of a high bank bearing in many places a double row of trees, and a broad ditch ; it measures about 8 yards where the sketch was taken, that is to say at the north west corner.

It's right to the name of the "Old" Park is confirmed by the remote situation. The earlier parks were seldom in the immediate neighbourhood of the lord's dwelling, being intended, not for ornament, but for inclosing, and protecting game. Bagot's park, or, better still, the "old" deer park of Warwick Castle, are instances of this practice.

Several suits for park breaking in the reigns of Ed. III. and Ric. II. have been already given from the Plea rolls. This park contained about 110 acres 2 roods 9 perches, if the fields called Little Park, Great Park, and Park Meadows (Nos. 448, 449, 450) are not included within the boundary. Probably they ought not to be, because they pay tithe, a clear proof that they were a portion of the de Colton, or Church Manor; not of the de Wasteney's estate: the Park itself having been made by the de Wasteney's, witness the royal grant. The only other solution possible would be, that John de Gresley, after he acquired both manors, may have enlarged the park by the addition of those three fields (about 18 acres); this is not, however, very likely. They were more probably called the "Park" meadows because they touched its boundary fence.

The "Mere" Lane was anciently so-named because it *divides* Colton and Blithfield parishes: "Mere" signifying "Boundary." This was the only road to the Newlands till modern times. The present road makes a sharp turn close to the entrance of "Mere" or "Bowling Alley" lane—marking where the modern part leading directly to the large farmhouse begins.

The earliest notice of the "Lount" property is that of c. 1200 A.D. (*vide* deeds relating to St. Thomas' Priory, in the appendix). It passed from Warin Griffyn de Colton to John his son; John conveyed it to Hugh de Breuse (or Bross), who in turn transferred it to Symon de Walton, who granted

it to the Austin Canons of St. Thomas' Priory, near Stafford. William, son of William (Mavesyn) of "Little Hay" (?), excused their suit at his court—save half-yearly by an appointed representative. Roger de Styvington was also a considerable benefactor to the Priory of land in Colton. Certain other lands were given them, inclosed from the waste here as early as 1257 A.D., by Wm. de Wasteneys and the chief holders of manors; property consolidated by degrees into the "Grange" or "Boughey hall" estate. In 1259 A.D., the Patent Rolls describe a suit, brought by Thomas Cumyn, vicar of Colwich, against the Prior, for common of pasture rights here; part of their land being in Haywood manor, now called the Parish of Colwich. Both farms were, no doubt, included, when in 1284 A.D., King Edward I. granted to St. Thomas liberty of free warren\* over all their demesne lands, including those in Colton. For this Priory of St. Thomas à Becket held here, by gift of William de Wastineys, and others, the land of one ox-team, reckoned at 12s yearly; besides 2s. 3d. yearly from court dues, with certain messuages. The enquiry into their value was made A.D. 1291, when Pope Nicholas IV. granted all the tenths of England to King Edward to defray the expense of a Crusade to Palestine. But the Patent rolls of 4 Ed. 1 (1275 A.D.), contain an earlier reference to these lands in a suit brought by the Prior of St. Thomas', against

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\* *Calendarium Rot. Cart* 12 Ed. 1 (*i.e.*) the *tenths* of the tithes.

Roger de Verney, and others, for pasture rights in Colton; soon followed by an answering charge (1277-8), which John, son of Hugh de Colton, brought against the Prior, while John le Counter, Henry son of Henry, and Richard son of Henry, William de Uttoxeter and Juliana his wife, occur in the Patents of 1277 A.D., combined in a similar action against the Prior. The same year William and Juliana have another suit for pasture rights here with the Prior, but without the other plaintiffs, the claim being clearly in right of the wife. A trial is given (in the Plea rolls, 21 Ed. 3) whether Sir Tho. le Wasteneys and Joan his wife, with John their son, Nicholas Caldewalle, and Agnes of the "Cnolle" of Colton, had deprived the Prior of a messuage here. The suit proceeded in their absence, and the jury stated that the messuage was formerly the Prior's, in right of his church, and one Isabella le Walshe had acquired it from the said Prior, to be held for ever of the Priory by an annual rent of 2s.; and Isabella had afterwards enfeoffed in it her illegitimate daughter Alianor, who had died seised of it, leaving no issue; wherefore it reverted to the Prior, as chief lord, and the defendants must pay him 6s. 8d. damages, they further stated the Priory had held it time out of mind (m. 102).

Later on, in 1535 A.D., the Grange and Lount lands were worth 100s. 8d. (annual rent);\* after the

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\* A small deduction was due to *the Bishop*, besides 23½d., paid annually to *Sir George Gresley*, for land and tenements held here by the Priory. *Valor Eccles.*, Henry VIII.

dissolution of the religious houses, these were granted, A.D. 1540, with the other estates of St. Thomas' Priory, to Roland Lee, whom the King had raised to the see of Coventry and Lichfield. Bishop Roland Lee is generally known from a single act of his life, the marriage of Henry VIII. to Anne Boleyn\*; but that he had a better claim to be remembered, for judgment and sound principle, few would hesitate to admit after considering the scheme which he set forth for the reform of the clergy in his diocese (quoted in Strype's annals): he is stated, moreover, to have shown considerable ability as Lord President of Wales, when he put down with the strong hand the robbers who infested the Welsh marches: his sister, Isabella or Sybilla, married Roger Fowler, descended, it is said, from Richard Fowler, of Foxley, in Buckinghamshire, who followed Richard I. to Palestine, and for his vigilance and bravery in baffling a night attack of the Saracens on the Christian camp, was granted these arms by the King, "ermine on a canton gules, an owl argent." This tradition, however, can scarcely be admitted, for so excellent an authority as the late Mr. Sydney Grazebrook (annotating the Fowler pedigree, in the Staffs. Visitation of 1614 A.D.), says, "that the arms here given were the bearings of Barton, of Barton-Hartshorne, Bucks, which the Fowlers had a right to quarter." Roger Fowler's immediate descent from the family of that name in Norfolk (one of

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\* Vide Hume's History of England, vol. 4, p. 111, Ed. 1789.

whom was squire of the body to Edward IV.) can be more clearly proved (*vide* pedigree, vol. 5 (p. ii.) Staffs. Hist. Coll.).

Their arms are given as “azure, on a chevron argent, 3 crosses moline sable, between 3 lions passant guardant.” To his sister’s sons by Roger Fowler, Bishop Roland Lee, bequeathed his property A.D. 1543, the Colton estate falling to his nephew and namesake Rowland Fowler, from whom it passed to George, Rowland’s son by his marriage with a daughter of Bradshawe, of Prestene, in Wales. George Fowler sold the “Grange” and Lount lands at Colton, to Samson Boghay or Boughey—from whom the property takes its present name of the “Boughey Hall Farm.” The final concords of 26 Elizabeth supply further valuable particulars, besides the date. “Between

SAMPSON BOUGHEY - - - Complainant.

and GEORGE FOWLER, Arniger - Deforciant.

of two messuages, a cottage, two tofts, three gardens, three orchards, 170 acres of land, 40 acres of meadow, 200 acres of pasture, 20 acres of wood, 10 acres of moor, 10 acres of marsh, and common of pasture for all cattle in 200 acres of furze and heath, in Colton and Colwich. George Fowler remitted all right to Sampson Boughey, and his heirs; for which Sampson gave him £100. The two messuages must be the Llount and Boughey Hall farmhouses. Thus, A.D. 1584, the St. Thomas’ lands again changed owners.\*

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\* Staffs. Hist. Col., vol. 15, p. 158.



In 22 James I. (1625 A.D.), Sampson Boughey and Joice his wife conveyed by fine to Richard Whiston, yeoman, and his heirs for ever, one messuage, one barn, one garden, one orchard, 36 acres of land, and 30 acres of pasture in Colton, receiving £100. Samson Boughey left a son and heir, George Boughey; who, two years before his death, transferred his Colton property to William Aston and others. Another instance probably of a collusive suit, to be followed by a re-entail to the donor's family. The fine is as follows:—

STAFFORD, MCHMS., 12 JAMES 1, A.D. 1615.

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Between William Aston, gentleman, John Meare, and George Beardmore, gentlemen, plaintiffs; and George Boughey, gentleman, deforciant, of three messuages, one cottage, two tofts, four gardens, four orchards, 190 acres of land, 46 acres of meadow, 220 acres of pasture, 26 acres of wood, 200 acres of furze and heath, 10 acres of moor, 10 acres of marsh, and common of pasture for all kinds of cattle in Colton, Colwich, Blithburie, and Maveson Ridware; George Boughey acknowledged the said tenements to be the right of William, and quit-claimed them to him and his heirs for ever, and for this the plaintiff gave him £300. \* Comparison of the two fines

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\* Notes in Erdswicke's Staffordshire. The Boughey's names occur in the Colton subsidy rolls of Elizabeth and James I. But these Boughey's appear to have failed in proving their connection with the main line of the family to the Herald's satisfaction (*v.* Visitation Roll, S. H. C.)

shews that the Boughey's had increased their property by some fifty acres. George Boughey died in 1617, and was succeeded by his son, another Sampson ; he was one of those who compounded for not receiving knighthood (temp. Charles I. Staffs. Hist. Coll.) On the death of this Sampson Boughey, A.D. 1658, there was a failure of heirs male, the only son George having died four years before his father, consequently the estate devolved upon the five daughters, co-heiresses, Elizabeth, Joye, Catherine, Grace, and Constance. Constance, the youngest, married Whitehall Degge, son of Sir Simon Degge, a judge of the Welsh-Court, and by payment of £750 bought up the interest of the other sisters, and became sole owner of the Boughey Hall property.\*

A Vestry Book of 1659 A.D., proves that Whitehall Degge served the office of "Surveyor of Highways," here in that year. Of his two children, the daughter Constance Degge, died an infant, and was buried at Colton, February 6, 1659 ; the boy, Simon Boughey Degge, survived his father, but did not live to take possession of the estate ; their mother married as her second husband Thomas Whitgreave, Esq., of the ancient Staffordshire family of the Whitgreaves, of Moseley Hall—a name familiar to all readers of "Boscobel"—and evidently embraced her husband's religious opinions, for there is a suit of Sir Simon Degge's extant, praying the Privy Council to grant him the wardship of his grandson,

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\* *Vide* Erdswicke's Staffs. Notes, &c.





*Colton House, South View.*



*Colton House, North Front.*

and so remove him from his mother's influence, who was bringing him up in the Roman Catholic faith; the application was granted, and an order, issued by the Privy Council, was served on Mr. Whitgreave, September 20th, 1679.\*

In 1697 A.D. (8 Wm. 3) we find Thomas Whitgreave, the elder, and Constance his wife, with Thomas Whitgreave the younger, as deforciant, conveying by fine to one Thomas Hutchinson, Esqre., five messuages, five barns, five gardens, three orchards, 150 acres of land, 50 acres of meadow, and 150 acres of pasture in Colton, &c., including Moseley and Fetherston, for £520, either as security or very probably for re-entail upon the Whitgreave family. A half-length portrait of the heiress, Constance Boughey, is in the possession of her descendant, Mr. Whitgreave, of Burton Manor, Stafford, and proves her to have been a lady of considerable beauty. The arms of the Boughey's are "sable on a bend argent, 3 stags' heads cabossed sable." The Whitgreave family bear "azure a cross quarterly pierced, or, in each quarter of the cross a chevron gules."†

Immediately behind the "Boughey Hall" farmhouse stands an oak of remarkable size, measuring 26 feet in girth at the lowest point, and 21 feet at

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\* *Vide* Appendix, where the order of the P. Council is given in full.

† For an account of the "Colton" estate of Mr. Thomas Whitgreave.—*Vide* Appendix.

the height of one yard from the ground ; it is impossible to determine accurately the age of this tree, but to judge from its appearance it may have been here soon after, if not at the time of, the Conquest.\*

Colton House, of Queen Anne's or George I. date, occupies some portion of the site of the "de Colton" (or "Church") Manor ; Almund's home previous to the Conquest ; and subsequently called "Mareschal's and Griffyn's" manor, when the de Colton's had been ousted ; or had become extinct in the person of William, son of Robert de Colton (temp. Ed. 3). The family has been traced back through the female line to Thomas de Colton, and to Gerald de Colton of c. 1165-1200 A.D. (*vide* accompanying pedigree and preceding account). The Griffyns continued to take an active part here down to the reign of Richard III. ; some members of the family were very turbulent, and most of them, as we have seen, were constantly involved in law-suits, partly owing, it may be, to the division of the Church Manor, and to its special tenure. They owned meadows on the banks of the Trent, including the island called "Griffyn's island," which we should identify with that facing the station on the south.

The present house (here represented from the

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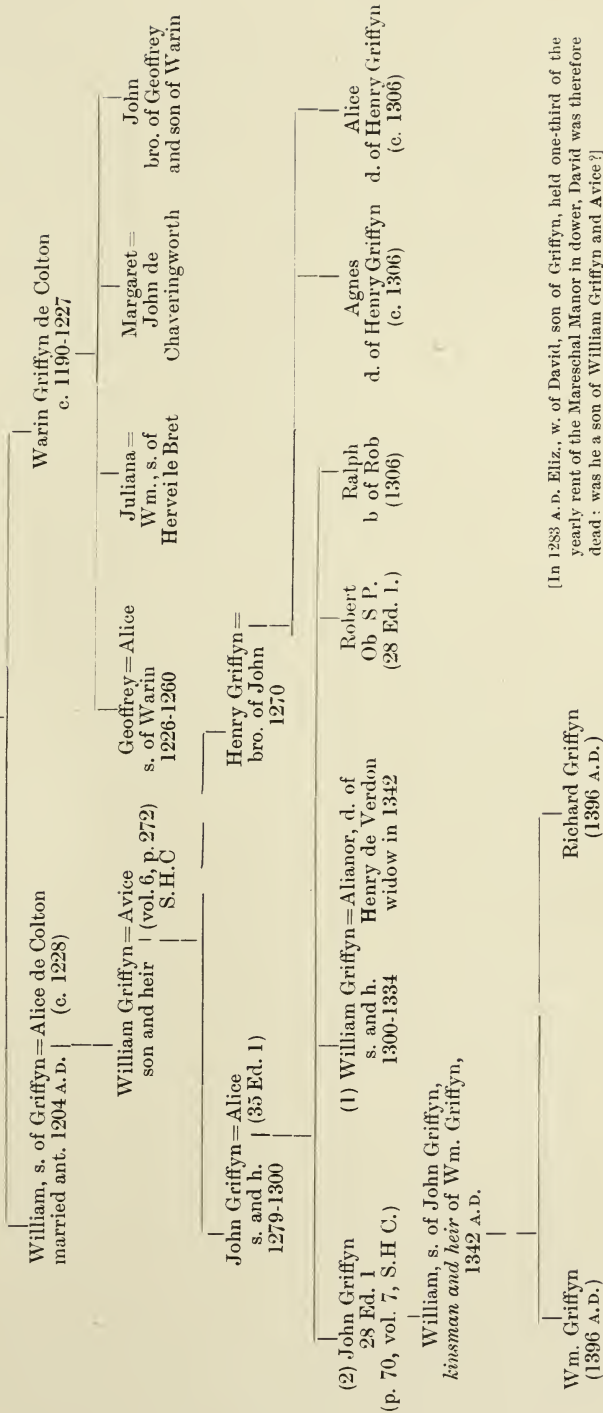
\* Dryden's "Palamon and Arcite," or the "Knight's Tale." Book 3 (quoted in "The Gamekeeper at Home.")

"The monarch oak, the patriarch of trees,  
Shoots rising up, and spreads by slow degrees ;  
Three centuries he grows, and three he stays,  
Supreme in state, and in three more decays."



PEDIGREE OF THE GRIFFYNS,  
JOINT OWNERS OF THE "CHURCH" MANOR (OTHERWISE "MARESCHAL'S" MANOR).

Griffyn, c. 1160 A.D.



[In 1283 A.D. Eliz., w. of David, son of Griffyn, held one-third of the yearly rent of the Mareschal Manor in dower, David was therefore dead : was he a son of William Griffyn and Alice?]







*Bellamour Hall.*



*Bellamour Lodge.*

north and south sides) belonged in 1777 A.D. to Mr. William Pigott, a gentleman of good family, who kept harriers there; and some years later, was occupied for a time by Lady Blount; while the new Bellamore Hall was in building. In 1795 A.D. it had been purchased by Mr. John Heyliger Burt, High Sheriff of Staffordshire in 1805. The Colton House gardens had then a reputation in the neighbourhood, which the present occupier, Mr. F. Bonney, has restored. Mr. Burt married Miss Judith Okeover, one of the well-known Okeover family. Having occasion to visit his West Indian property, Mr. Burt was lost at sea on the voyage home; the ship in which he sailed has never been heard of. After it had passed through several tenants' hands, Colton house was sold by Mr. Burt's son to Mr. T. B. Horsfall. The present representative of the Burt family, is the grandson of the High Sheriff, Mr. Henry Burt, an officer in the Prussian Army; nephew and aide-de-camp of Field Marshal Count Von Moltke. Nearly opposite to Colton house, there stood formerly the old dovecote, belonging to the manor, close to the wall of the present school yard; it was taken down within the recollection of Mr. Charles Radford, and others now living in Colton. This dovecote gave its name to the field.

Of other houses here, Bellamore Lodge was built in 1851 A.D., for his daughter's future use, by Mr. Oldham, of Bellamore Hall. Miss Oldham subsequently enlarged and considerably improved the

house ; and here she resided until her death, April 20, 1883 A.D. The "Ellen Oldham" almshouses were built by her sister, Mrs. John Harland (on land hired for 99 years from the school trustees); an appropriate memorial to one who was a constant, wise, and generous friend to the people of Colton ; (witness the girls' school at Bellamore, the restoration of the parish church, &c.); and whose name neither will, nor ought to be, forgotten. The photograph of the house is taken from the south-east corner.

About 60 or 70 years ago, the workmen employed in digging gravel on a small rising ground, then known as the "Chapel hill," (situated on the south side of the present house, and now forming part of the lawn) discovered some foundations of an ancient chapel, from which the field derives its name of the "Chapel yard."\* The plan, so far as it was uncovered, was fairly perfect, there were no traces of pillars, but a single stone rudely carved with a man's head, possibly part of a corbel, was found, and is now in the writer's possession. Many small and very narrow bricks, from an inch and a half to

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\* This had once been a burial ground, and bones are said to have been found there occasionally, when the site was used as a gravel pit. James Lyons informed me he had seen many "carved stones" turned up in the chapel yard, but did not know what became of them, as "no one took any interest in the matter" (!)

The houses including Colton Lodge, and the row of cottages leading to the blacksmith's forge, were built by a lawyer named Coxe.







*Rectory, South Front.*



*Rectory, North Front.*

two inches thick, were seen among the fragments.\*

On Miss Oldham's death, Bellamore Lodge passed to her sister, Mrs. John Harland, for life, with remainder to her nephew, Captain Charles O. Oldham, only son of her second brother, Charles. The rectory was removed† to the east side of the Church, by the Rev. John Landor; it stood previously on the west, at the upper end of the stable yard, having a garden bordering on the brook. The accompanying plan best explains the position of the "old" rectory house and outbuildings; it is taken from a terrier of the glebe made by Thos. Yates, in the year 1807 A.D. The field marked "Mr. Landor's" is the "Castle Croft," which he bought from Wm. Power, and conveyed to the living, in exchange for the small glebe field called "Bishton Leasow." A sepia drawing, among the Salt Library collections, dated 1840 A.D., shews a large waggon shed, with double doors, opening towards the road, and projecting considerably (as in the plan) beyond the yard north wall near the two lime trees. The present stable and coach-house formed the old tithe barn until 1875 A.D. The entrance and dining

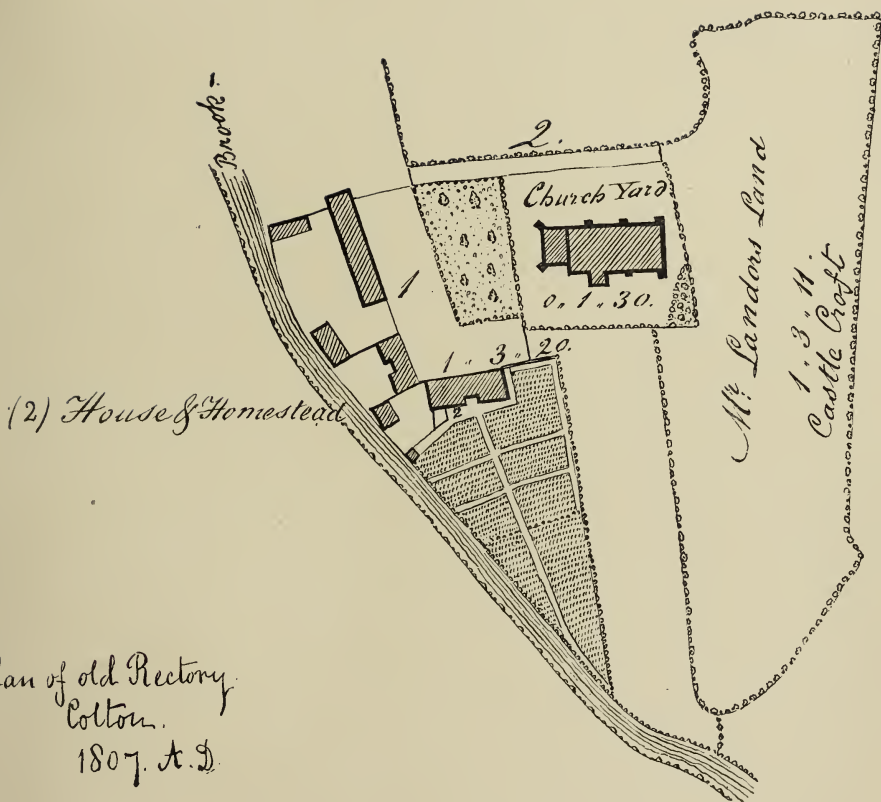
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\* This stone was preserved in the Yates' family for many years, when they left Colton it passed into the hands of William Haywood, who had been present when it was first discovered. We are indebted to Mr. Yates, the late Station Master of Weston, for the clue which led to its recovery—the head has probably been much mutilated.

† Not until seven children of the former rector had died there, owing to the dampness of the site.

room of the modern rectory house were added by the rector the same year, when considerable alterations were also effected in the interior arrangement of the building.

“Hamley” House (anciently “Homeley”), now belonging to Lord Bagot, is mentioned as “Mr. Webb’s new house” in a vestry book of the year 1707; it has undergone considerable alteration from time to time, and there was probably an earlier dwelling on the same site; traces of an old window remain blocked up in the wall of one of the out-buildings, and the well is said to be curious. In the last century it was known as Raddle-pit House, in assessment for poor’s rates. The family of Webb was connected with Colton for a considerable time. In 14 Charles 2, one James Greene, gentleman, and Mary his wife, conveyed by fine to Sampson Webb and his heirs, a cottage, 80 acres of land, 10 acres of meadow, 80 acres of pasture, and common of pasture in Colton, for £160, and in 7 William 3, 1696 A.D., William Webb acquired by fine a messuage, four barns, an orchard, 40 acres of land, 10 of meadow, and 50 of pasture, here, as security probably for £160. Eventually, after passing from the hands of the Webbs, to Mr. Green, of Lichfield (a relation on the mother’s side). Hamley sold, on Mr. Green’s death, to the first Lord Bagot. “Wilderly Hall,” so called, was once a building of much the same stamp as “Hamley,” the registers show that it was inhabited in 1692 A.D.; the lane now ending at the fish-ponds,



Plan of old Rectory.  
Cotton.  
1807. A.D.





formerly turned there to the right, and, following a line of trees, which still remain in the field, led to Wilderly. This land had belonged, we have seen, to Anselm le Mareschal. The road connecting Hamley corner and Stockwell Heath is properly "Moor" lane. Of other ways, Tooth's lane leads from Croft leasow into the main road, opposite to the school cottages. "Brakenhill" lane connects the upper end of Colton with the road to Stockwell Heath from Finner's Hill, called "Featherbed" lane. Where the "Welshman's" lane ran is hard to determine. It cannot, we think, be named from the murder of Madoc, the Welshman, near Morton, mentioned in the rolls. It may have been the field-way joining the road to Newlands with the Hadley Gate fields, (*v.* deeds). Some 65 years ago, the Newlands road itself was so overgrown as to be impassable for foot-passengers, who used a path through the adjoining fields; and about 1830 A.D., on the foot-way leading from the Pinfold to Rugeley, two fields beyond the "Holmes," where the hedge was then very large and thick, John Deakin was assaulted and robbed, receiving injuries from which he never entirely recovered; for this crime two men and a woman were executed at Stafford. Before the railway was made, there was a lawlessness hardly credible now; and people yet living can recall other cases of highway robbery on the Blithfield road. So altered a state of things is worthy of record. The "Fishponds" were made by old Mr. Spencer, of Boughey Hall farm, a man of some wealth, and

great eccentricity, at whose death they must have been purchased by Lord Bagot.

Of other lands in Colton, the "Sleetings,"\* from the Danish "Slet" (Saxon "Slaed"), meaning long, flat, smooth meadows, were enclosed some 90 years back under the direction of Mr. Harvey,† acting as agent for the Bagot family.

The origin of the name "Martlin" appears uncertain, but is probably a corruption of the "Marling" Hill, from the huge marl pit excavated on its south side, and forming the present Hollow lane and pit (*vide* the accompanying photograph). Marl was extensively employed to dress the land in early times: witness the provision for its use in charters;

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\* The "Eye" meadow, often alluded to in Colton deeds, contained 32 acres 3 roods 3 perches, when Rev. J. Landor was rector. Of these Mr. Whitgreave held 10 acres 1 rood 2 perches; Mrs. Emery 14 acres 0 roods 9 perches; J. Pegg, Esquire, 1 acre 6 roods 28 perches; J. Webb, Esquire, 7 acres 0 roods 26 perches. A note of the "Sleetings," when Rev. John Landor held the living, gives 45 acres 3 roods 31 perches as their area: Lady Blount owning 6 acres 1 rood 37 perches; J. Webb, Esquire, 11 acres 0 rood 29 perches; Lord Bagot 8 acres 3 roods 22 perches; J. Burt, Esquire, 3 acres 3 roods 12 perches; Rev. J. Landor 3 acres 1 rood 39 perches; Mrs. R. Emery 8 acres 3 roods 38 perches; J. Biddulph, Esquire, 2 acres 1 rood 31 perches; and Hayward 2 roods 13 perches. "Ing" means a pasture, but it is especially applied to low, moist ground, and such as is subject to occasional overflowings (*Arch. Journal*). The name is singularly appropriate here.

† The hand gates on the footpath leading to the Station are all placed in a straight line, after passing "The Holms," a sign of Mr. Harvey's work.





*The Hollow Lane, Colton.*



*The Long Stile, Colton.*

and this hill has supplied Colton with marl for many hundred years past. At one time the derivation was sought in the Colton mart, or market (for which Sir William de Wasteneys obtained the royal license c. 1241), but it is too ancient a name for any such origin, and the "marl" pit is, there can be little question, the true explanation.

A private Act of Parliament was obtained A.D. 1792, for the enclosure of waste lands in Colton, including four commons, Hamley and Stockwell Heaths, the Marsh, and Longley. These were vested in trustees, "in aid of the Poor's rate in Colton," Lady Blount being then the owner of the Manor. Certain parish houses were built at the Heath, aided possibly by the sale of some part of the enclosed land, in 1794 A.D. (?)

The Rev. Charles S. Landor, then rector, accepted four acres of the marsh, valued at a rental not exceeding one pound an acre, in lieu of all tithes on these enclosed grounds (*v.* deed of 1845 A.D.). The brook, so-called, which intersects the Marsh, may have been, and probably was, originally an artificial cutting, made to drain the same, the real course being that which winds between the "Marsh" and "the Holmes." The former is called the "Drain" in an old plan, and makes a "right angle" where it leaves the true course.

It may interest Colton people to know that the following families, whose descendants are now remaining in the village, were living here, apparently as yeomen, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, A.D.

1598—Heyward, Bradbury, Tooth, Royl, Parton, and Wakelin, but the oldest of all Colton names is that of Griffin, although it is exceedingly doubtful whether the present family is descended, in any way, from the original stock, known to have been landowners here in the time of King John, and who can be traced down to the year A.D. 1480.

The curious MS. volume in the Salt Library, containing an Ecclesiastical Census of the Province of Canterbury for the year A.D. 1676, gives the following returns of the Colton population—140 Conformists, 30 Roman Catholics, 30 Non-Conformists, making a total of 200; but whether young children were included in this estimate is doubtful, in some places they certainly were not, as the book shows. Perhaps if another 50 were added, we should have a fairly accurate return of the whole number of inhabitants, judging from the burial register of those times, as compared with that of the present day. The returns here quoted were made by the churchwardens at the command of Dr. Henry Compton, elected Bishop of Oxford in 1674 and translated to London in A.D. 1675.

The population of Colton at the time of the Survey (1086 A.D.), gives a total, exclusive of the lord's family, in both manors of 30 men; say, about 100 to 120 with women and children. This number would be raised as often as the de Wastineys were residing here. One hundred and twenty-one paid the subsidy of 34 H. 8—1543 A.D. Probably nearly three times that number of inhabitants would be



within the mark, adding women and children (say 360). Children being excluded from the Ecclesiastical Census of 1676 A.D., about 280-300 would then represent the population. In 1810 A.D. there were 484 inhabitants; in 1821 the number had risen to 569; while in 1831 (when the canal was being constructed) it rose to 765. In 1811, the census returned 645 persons (349 males and 296 females), and the last return of 1891 A.D. reached 736. The village stocks stood at the N.E. corner of Colton House garden wall, where their stone foundation may yet be traced (about 10 yards from the corner of the wall). The village pound adjoined the entrance of the field path to Rugeley, and is still known as the "Pin-fold." The ancient custom of going "souling," on the evening of "All Saints" Day, recently survived among the young men. The children go "Hallowing," with a song beginning \*"Hail all that be here." To raise money for "masses" for the dead was the origin of the practice. Within the last 20 years some of the inhabitants used to put flowers on the doorstep of their houses on May 1st; while down to modern times it was a custom here that the women should rise early on St. Thomas' day, and go round the parish, to receive at each farmhouse from a pint to three pints of corn, which they exchanged for flour at the mill. It ceased when the mill became a "plaster" mill. Brand notices the practice in Warwickshire, as called "corning." These old

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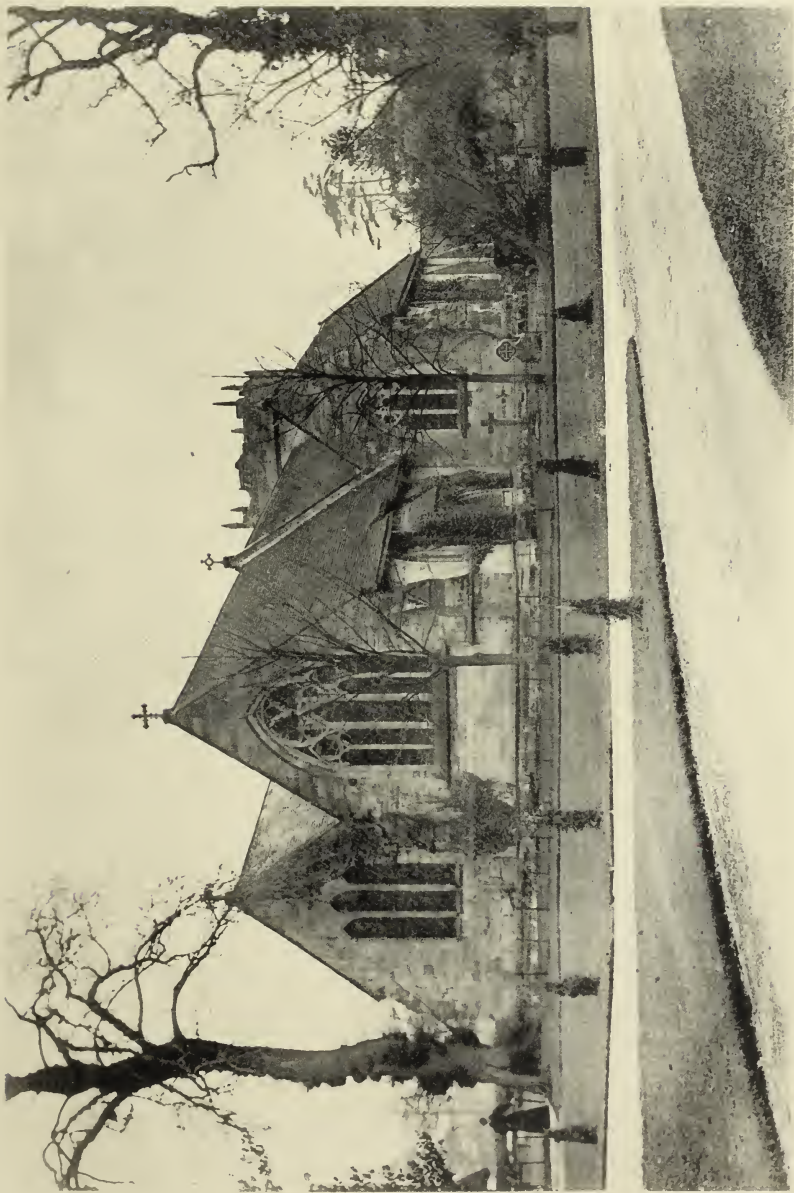
\* Corrupted into "Holloby-here,"

customs are so fast dying out that it is well they should be put on record.

We learn from the following notices in the Plea rolls, previously omitted, that in 10 H. 5, John Chetwynd, with Rose his wife, had sued John Clerk of Colton, husbandman, for a sum of 11s. in arrear of an annual rent of 22s., which he owed them (m. 297), and in 1 Hen. 6, that Robert Sutton sought to recover damages from the same John Clerk for taking by force 5 oxen belonging to him from Colton, and impounding them without reasonable cause. John did not appear (m. 253). The next year, Thomas Gresley, Sheriff of Staffs., was fined 6s. 8d. for delaying to return the King's writ beyond the 4th day of the quindene of Michaelmas, 2 Hen. 6 (m. 56.)

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The church of Colton, dedicated to "St. Mary the Virgin," originally consisted of tower, north aisle, and nave with south porch, chancel, and north chancel aisle, or chapel; but this arrangement was changed when the body of the church was rebuilt, A.D. 1851; by the conversion of the former aisle and rector's chapel into the present nave and chancel, and the addition of an entirely new north aisle—rendered necessary by the growing population of the parish. In the course of this alteration, Mr. Street increased the width of the present chancel, besides raising considerably both its floor and roof; the east window of the south chancel, a poor specimen of Early Decorated work, without tracery, was



*Colton Church, from the East.*



taken away, and the triplet lancet window which originally lighted the north chancel, transferred to its place.\*

The older portions of the building may be referred to c. 1190-1200 A.D., when the early English style was first being introduced ; whether there are traces of still more ancient " Norman " work in the tower foundations seems to us uncertain, although that view was suggested by an experienced architect. There can, however, be no doubt that the present building has undergone great alteration on three different occasions. The first of these may be easily traced in the addition to the tower of low buttresses, having no connexion with the earlier work, in the embattled parapet and pinnacles, as well as in the upper part of the south chancel buttresses, and the later moulding which runs along above the original string course, but has unluckily been omitted in the accompanying woodcut ; all these are " perpendicular " in character.

The Church was again altered when the original north aisle was pulled down, to the great injury of the building and destruction, doubtless, of much that was curious, in order to make way on that side for a brick wall with round-headed windows, and a slated roof, equally mean and unsightly. This act of vandalism, for it deserves no other name, was perpetrated, there seems reason to believe, at the

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\* This change had *not* been made in the church of 1840 A.D., though the drawing so (mis)represents it, having been inaccurately copied.

beginning of the last century (circa A.D. 1704).\* (2) Finally the whole church was brought to its present beautiful condition when the restoration of A.D. 1851 was carried out by Mr. Street, through the energy and good taste of the then rector, the Rev. A. Seaton, supported by the liberality of Miss Oldham, of Bellamore, and other friends and parishioners.

The only considerable parts of the church of late twelfth, or of thirteenth century date, now standing are the tower and south chancel; the latter is characterised by a good early English triplet lancet window, and by three windows of the same date, but plainer design, along the south wall.† Here were discovered the frescoes, which are represented in the accompanying woodcuts. The figure of a bishop wearing a mitre, and bearing in his hand a pastoral staff, was painted in full length on the splay of the window adjoining the nave, and is intended for St. Nicholas, the protector of children, the crook being filled up with a child's head in allusion to that office.

The very curious fresco painted immediately above the priest's door is part of the same subject, and represents the three maidens, who, according to an early, and probably authentic, tradition, were pro-

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\* Considerable repairs were carried out in 1801 A.D., at a cost of £85 8s. 7½d. In 1813 a gallery was erected for the singers at a further outlay of £25.

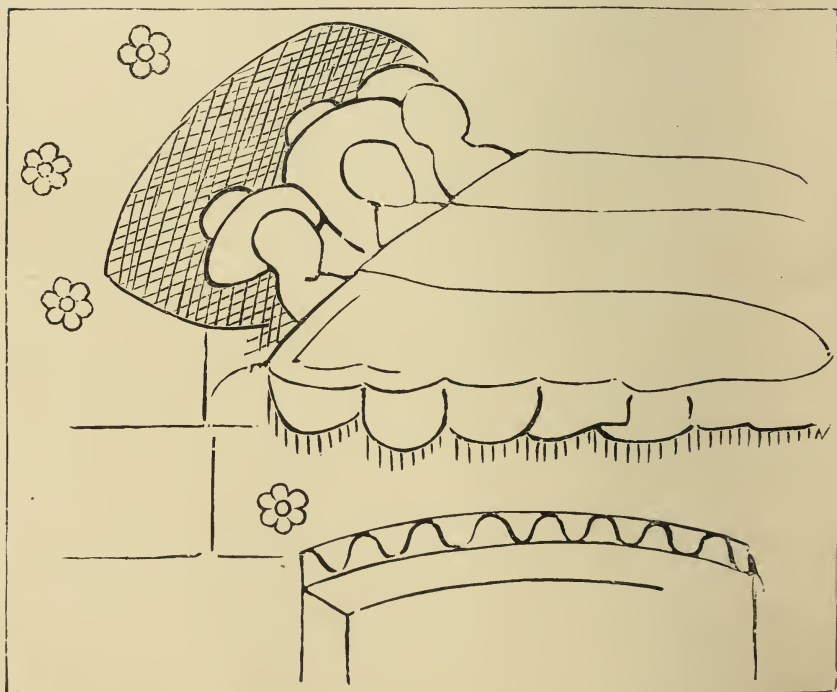
† These windows were widened for the sake of light in 1851 A.D.







ST. NICHOLAS.



THREE MAIDENS RESCUED BY ST. NICHOLAS.

vided with marriage portions by St. Nicholas,\* while sleeping peacefully, all unconscious of the danger with which their father's poverty threatened them; on two successive nights the Bishop threw bags of money in at a window of the house and withdrew noiselessly, but on the third night their father, being on the watch, discovered the rescuer of his daughters. From this deed of mercy and liberality, St. Nicholas received the art symbol of three purses, or golden balls, as shown in the "Ansidei" Madonna of Raphael, where the three balls are represented at the Saint's feet (*v.* Martyrs and Saints of the first twelve centuries). In the previous edition of this account of Colton, the sleeping figures were identified with the three youths murdered by the inn-keeper at Myra, and miraculously restored to life by St. Nicholas—as the story goes—but the present explanation is certainly the more correct. Possibly there were other paintings, of which all traces had been lost, when the drawings were made. These frescoes are considered to be late 14th-century work [*i.e.*, about the time of Richard II.], and resemble the paintings on the ancient oak screen of Ingham Church, Norfolk, where the life and miracles of St. Nicholas are given in detail; the same three maidens in one bed being there exactly reproduced.

Were further proof required, this explanation of the frescoes is strongly confirmed by what has gone

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\* St. Nicholas was born at Patara, a city of Lycia, and for his piety, from a layman was made Bishop of Myra. He died on the 8th of the ides of December, A.D. 343.

before in the history of Colton. Since it has been shown that in Richard II.'s time, the greater part of the property here passed into the hands of Sir "Nicholas" de Gresley, through his marriage with Thomasine de Wasteneycs, what more likely, therefore, than that the figure of his patron saint, St. Nicholas, should have been introduced in the decoration of a chancel which belonged to him as the lay impropiator? Of the other frescoes here given, discovered on the same wall eastwards and above the sedilia, the principal one represents "The expulsion of our first parents, Adam and Eve, from Paradise, and the tree of life;" the other, "The salutation of Elizabeth." The attitude and expression of the angel, however rudely drawn, are not wanting in power.

These curious wall paintings were coloured chiefly a dull crimson, the tree of life excepted, whose leaves were green and the stem brown. They were damaged beyond all possibility of restoration when the plaster was removed in A.D. 1851, but not until drawings had been carefully taken.\*

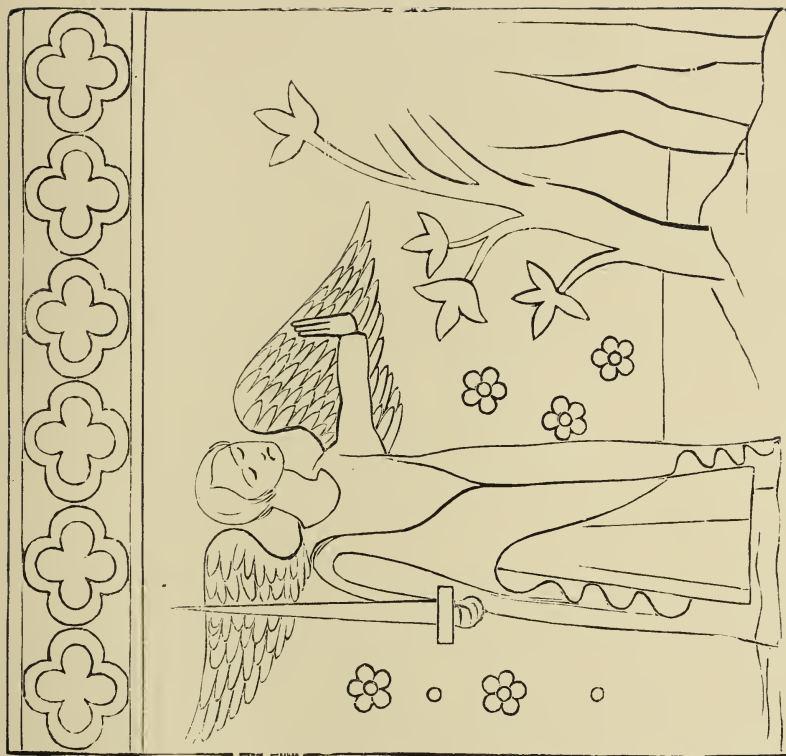
One of the so-called "Leper" windows, square-headed, occupies the usual place on the south side of the chancel, adjoining the body of the church. Openings of this kind were not intended to admit light, but were placed near the ground, conveniently

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\* We are indebted to Mrs. Maw, formerly Miss Seaton, for the loan of these drawings, which are here carefully re-produced on a smaller scale. [The artist was the late Miss Levett, of Rugeley, who kindly copied them at the church restoration].



SALUTATION OF ELIZABETH.

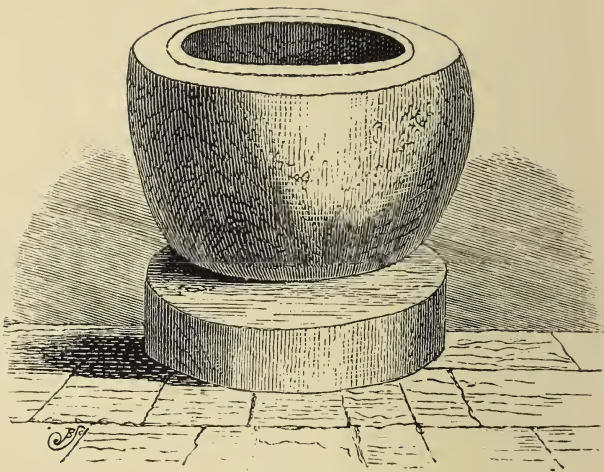


EXPULSION OF ADAM AND EVE.









OLD FONT.

for communication with anyone outside the building; while they were closed, as in this instance, with a shutter. Various conjectures have been made respecting their use, as, for instance, "For the sight of the high altar, of the Easter light, for ringing the 'Sanctus' bell, for the 'Confessional,' or for the opportunity of Divine Service for lepers," (but the last is inadmissible altogether, and ringing the sanctus bell or the confessional was their chief object. (Woodstock History, chap. vii., p. 86).

The priest's door in the south wall is plain, but of the original fabric. This chancel contains an Early English piscina or water drain, with chamfered cusp ornaments placed immediately beneath the window, which is said to be somewhat unusual, though instances are known elsewhere; and the rude sedilia, comprising three openings of equal height, remain, although the stone has been re-faced in places, and the level of the floor throughout considerably raised. Traces of original work appear again in the bases of two pillars dividing the chancels.

The ancient font, of which a sketch is here given,\* was a simple bowl of stone without moulding or ornament of any description, and much resembled that discovered in the wall of Sandon Church; being too dilapidated for further use, it was unfortunately destroyed at the last restoration.

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\* The woodcut makes the upper surface of the font too broad and flat, according to Mrs. Garner's recollection of the original.

The present font was designed by Mr. Street, in memory of the Rev. C. S. Landor, formerly rector and patron of the living. There are several modern stained glass windows, but no traces remain of two shields painted, we conclude, on the ancient glass, which were to be seen in the time of James I.,\* one representing the arms of "Gresley impaling Wasteneys," the other "on a field or, two chevrons sable," intended possibly for the Bagot coat, though differently blazoned.†

The principal feature of Colton Church, taken as a whole is unquestionably its ancient tower, which is seen to the best advantage from the ordinary approach on the north-west, where the picturesque covering of ivy adds much to the general effect without concealing its architectural merits. Since this was written, the ivy has been torn down by a violent gale, but will again cover the lower part of the tower in a few years time. Its removal brought to light a feature of the building which had escaped notice. Rather below the level of the belfry windows, on either angle of its north side, may be seen a projecting stone boss, formerly carved as a face; that upon the north-western angle retains sufficient traces to make this certain. The stone on the north-east angle scarcely shows beyond the wall surface. It is

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\* *Vide* MS. in the Salt Library, Stafford.

† This is very uncertain, but we have failed to discover any more probable explanation.



*Colton Church, South View.*





not usual, we believe, to find a mask in such a position, and unconnected with a string course. Unfortunately the sandstone has suffered too much from the effect of time and weather to preserve any clear outline ; there are no corresponding traces on the south-western angle ; and the south-east would have been covered by the original clerestory. In attempting to plant creepers against the western face of the tower, the great width of the foundation, projecting some two feet beyond the wall, shewed the care of the old builders to provide sufficiently solid support for the weight of their tower is so low-lying a site. The belfry windows on three sides are each of two pointed openings of Early English work, separated by a plain shaft and spanned within by a round-headed arch. There are three bells, but one of them is modern, and was given by Miss Oldham in A.D. 1852. They bear these inscriptions:—

(1) "G. Hedderley fecit. 'God save his church,'"

(2) "C. & G. Mears, founders, London, 1852. 'Laus Deo,'"

(3) "John Woolums, Nicholas Balmford, and W. Burdeng.  
D.H."\*

The following are the dimensions of the tower:—  
Height to sill of belfry windows, 24 feet ; height to top of parapet, 36 feet ; thickness of wall nowhere less than three feet ; inside measurement on ground floor, 12 feet square ; outside measurement, 19 feet. The interior length of the Church, exclusive of the

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\* Are the letters D.H. on this bell the initials of the well-known bell founder, Daniel Hedderley ?

tower, is 86 feet 6 inches; the width, with the additional north aisle, 45 feet 4 inches.

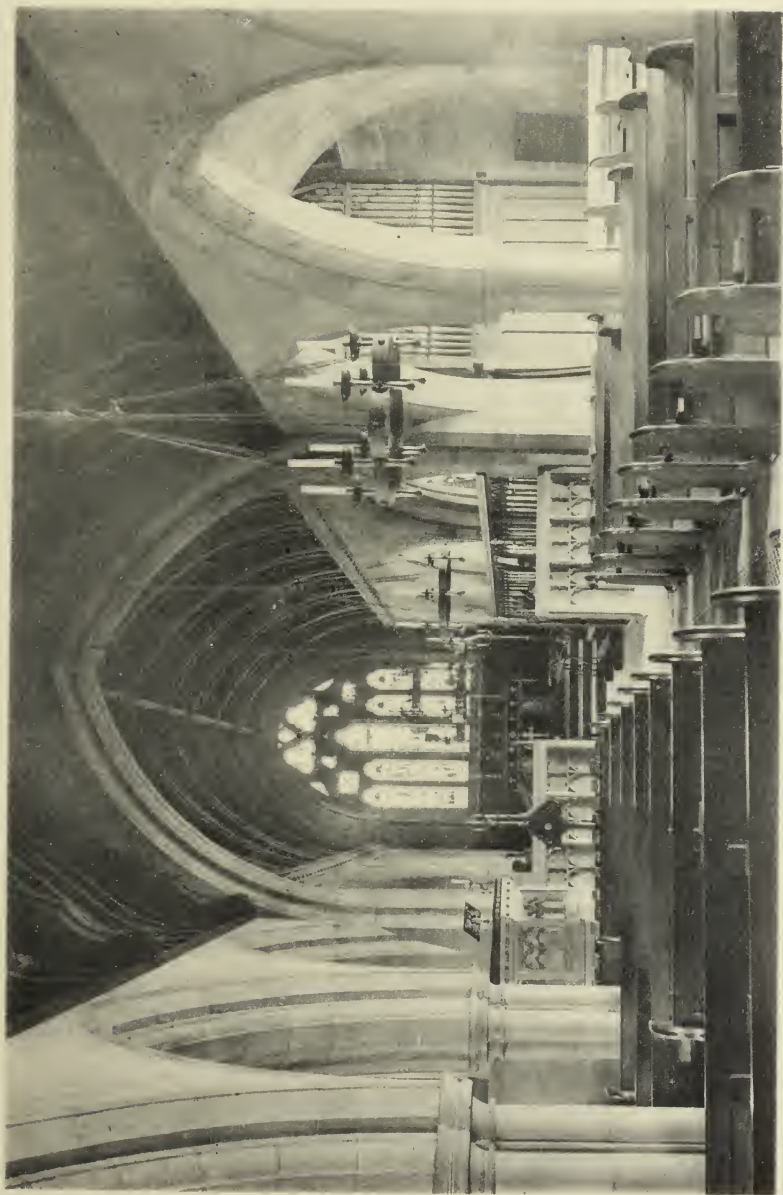
In the churchyard, on the south side, lies the socket of the ancient cross; on the north, resting against the wall, is a good example of an old mounting block, a relic of the days when roads were almost impassable for wheels, and pillions were commonly used by the farmers' wives; Colton Street was little better than a water course until, in 1779 A.D., the long drain was made, chiefly at the cost of Mr. Pigott, of Colton House. The name for the road to the Marsh is "Water Lane," being, in fact, only the bed of the brook. (At Dodford, Northants, the "main" street of the village was the brook, in 1875 A.D.!) The registers date from April 25, A.D. 1647. There is nothing remarkable in them beyond the entry of the note below.\*

An inventory of Church goods (Staffordshire); 6 Edward 6, p. 14, contains the following particulars relating to St. Mary's, Colton:—Fyrst, on (one) chales of silver with a patent, two vestments, two

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\* "1732 A.D. Sarah filius Gulielmi Woodruff hodie natus, paulo post propter ægritudinem per Baptismum renatus, et momento proxime sequenti denatus, nono die Decembris sepultus est."

"Supra dictam ascriptionem posterius seculis futuris errorem rectoris conscribentis procul dubio vocabunt: sed, audi lector quod verum est, et ride, mulieres quæ partui difficili aderant, et ob eam ipsam causam forsitan perterritæ, per nimium festinationem, aut negligentiam, potius quam ignorantiam credendum est, sexûs discrimini non sat curiose attendentes, nomen feminæ masculine proli imposuerunt."



*Colton Church.*



old copes. Item—Two old towells, a cross of laten, two alter clothes, on (one) surpluses. Item—Two iron kandelsticks, two bells in the stepull (belfry), a sanctus bell, and bucket of brasse. Memorandum “Delyvered by the Rt. Honble. Walter Viscount Hereford, Lord Ferrers and of Charteley, Sir Edward Aston, Kt., and Edward Lyttleton, Esqre., Commissioners within the county of Stafford for church goodes, to Thomas Gallande and John Wyggen,\* churchwardens of Colton, a chalice of silver with a patent, two bells and a saunce† bell in

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\* The Wyggen family were yeomen and landowners here for many years. William Wyggen witnessed a Colton deed in 1350 A.D. (23 Ed. 3). John Wygan, of Colton, is mentioned similarly, 1422 A.D. (9 Hen. 5). Richard Wygan died 1458 A.D. Another John Wygan was serving as churchwarden here in 1553 A.D. Thomas Wyggen attests a Bagot deed, 1538 A.D. Robert Wiggin pays 2s. towards the Poor loan of 1598 A.D. Simon Wyggen acts for Colton, 1677 A.D.—A copy of an indenture of release made by John Wyggen, of Colton, and others, May 7, 1685 A.D. (1 James 2), may be seen among the Salt Library MSS. (Beck 1, 116). Ten years later (1695 A.D.), John Wyggen lent money to John and Herbert Aston (Ingestre deeds) and the name occurs frequently in the parish register, as for instance, Richard Wiggen's burial *at night* in 1703 A.D.—Thomasine and Mary, daughters of Simon Wiggen, occur (1703 and 1712).—Ann, d. of John Wiggen, baptized here October 22, 1730, is the last entry.

† The sanctus, sacring, or saunce bell was the small bell used at the most solemn part of the Mass or Holy Communion Service of those days, and so named from the words “Sanctus,” “Sanctus,” (Holy, Holy, Holy). It was usually a hand bell, but sometimes hung in a turret on the roof over the entrance of the chancel.

the steeple, two linen clothes for T' holy Communion table, a surplus for the curat, savelly to be kept until the king's majestie's pleasure therein be further knowen: In witness whereof the aforesaid have subscribed their names. 4th May, 7 Ed. 6." (A.D. 1553.)

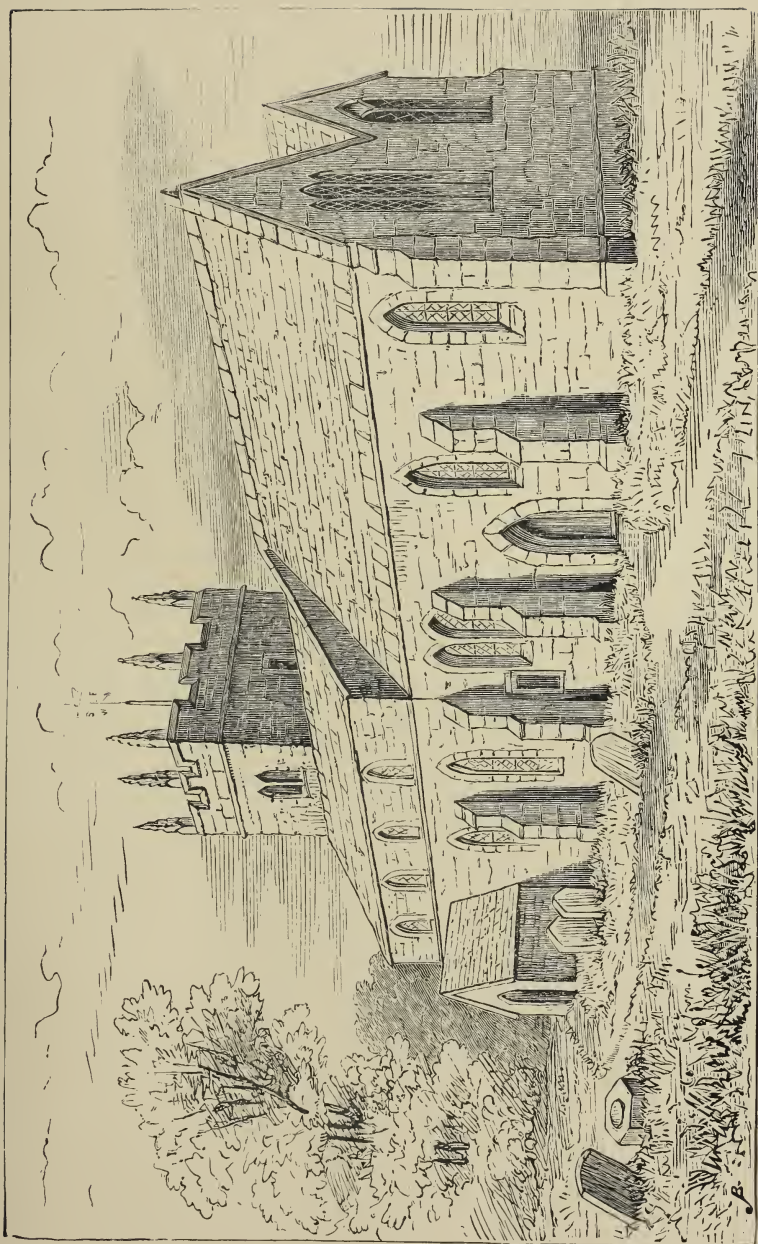
The three carved misereres\* in the north chancel, formerly belonging to Tenby Church, Pembroke-shire, had been sold to the carpenter of a neighbouring village, and placed in a summer-house, from which they were rescued by Mr. Seaton.

"The chapel" of the blessed Virgin Mary in Colton; meaning, no doubt, the Church; is referred to again in an assessment of *ninths*, granted by Convocation to the Crown in the year A.D. 1341. The Abbot of Burton and Robert de Mavesyn were two of the Commissioners for this matter; and Robert, son of John de Colton, Henry Colman, and William the Smith were made responsible for the *ninths* of this Church, valued at four marks, which consisted of the ninth sheaf, the ninth lamb, and the ninth fleece ("Nonarum Inquisitiones," p. 131). Why the Jurors of "Sandon and Draycote" should state, as they do, that "the ninth of sheaves, lambs, and fleeces, of the Church ("capellâ" is so used not unfrequently) of Colton, "which has not yet been taxed,"

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\* "Misereres" are the projecting brackets on the under side of the stall seats, which seats being fixed on hinges and turned up, the projection is sufficient to give rest without forming an actual seat. They were intended for the relief of infirm clergy during long services where much standing was required, "Gloss. Arch."





COLTON CHURCH, BEFORE THE RESTORATION



is worth this year 54s. 10d.," does not appear; but the three Colton jurors assess the charge at 53s. 4d.

It is observable that, while about one-third of Colton parish pays no tithe at all (forming, as it does, the untitheable, or de Wastineys, manor), there is a division of the tithe, between the rector and the Earl of Lichfield, the present lay impropiator, the origin of which is not known, though it existed certainly when the Gresleys held the manor (*vide* the fine of 1610 A.D.) The small endowment in land now belonging to the clerkship may have been, and probably was, originally attached to the ancient chapel discovered in the garden of Miss Oldham's house as already noticed. It was intended, no doubt, for a Clerk in holy orders. A small piece of land on the west side of the church was added to the old church-yard by the late rector, Mr. Seaton, with the patron's consent. The new burial ground was the gift of Mr. Horsfall, of Bellamore, to whose liberality Colton is further indebted for the school's site and buildings; Mr. Horsfall also carried through the consolidation of the school charities into a single endowment, subject to the life interest of the mistress of the endowed school. The cross erected to his memory by his widow is of white Mansfield stone; it rises about 15 feet from the ground, and was completed under Mr. Street's direction, Nov. 15, 1879 A.D. Colton Wake, or Feast, is held on the Sunday nearest to Sept. 19th, which is to be traced, we conclude, to the Nativity of the B. Virgin (old style

Sept. 8th), the church having been dedicated in her honour.

It should not be forgotten that the porch gates, designed by Messrs. Bodley and Garner, were given by the people of Colton, in memory of Miss Oldham. (Xmas, 1883 A.D.)

The following list of the Rectors of Colton, and the Patrons who presented them, taken chiefly from the Lichfield registers, is curious in itself, and valuable for the light which it throws on the history of the place:—

1086 A.D. The priest of Colton (Domesday Survey).

1160 c. Gilbert,\* the priest of Colton (*v.* Renner de Wolseley's grant).

1203 ob. Richard, parson of Colton, p. Gerald de Colton (Plea rolls).

1227 c. Robert, the priest, parson of Colton (Plea rolls).

1254 c. John, the priest of (Close rolls, &c., 41 Hen. 3).

1278 and 1284. William de Beverley, parson of Colton (P. rolls, bis.)

1303. Thomas de Bradewell,† p. Lady Avice le Mareschal.

1307. William de Nostrefeld, p. Lady Avice le M, on resignation of Tho. de Bradewell.

1331. William Attewoode (Pleas, 4 Ed. 3).

1338. James de Runham (on death of Wm.), p. Sir Robert de Morley, Kt., Marshal of Ireland.

\* Gilbert, the priest of Colton (1160 c.), witness to the grant of Renner de Wolseley to the nuns of Blithbury, can hardly be, as Mr. Eyton suggests identical with the Gilbert who signs a Mavesyn deed of 1200 A.D. Because the rolls prove that one Richard, the priest of Colton, died about 1203 A.D.

† Lady Avice de Mareschal was not the Avice, wife of Rob. de Morley, but probably her mother.

1340 c. William de Shulton\* (by exchange), p. Sir Robert de Morley.

1342. William de Houghton,† presb. (on resignation), p. Sir Robert de Morley.

1349. William de Noble‡ (aliter de Winton), sub-deacon, on resignation, p. Sir Robert de Morley, Kt.

1350. William de Hanley§ (cleric), on resignation, p. Sir Robt. de Morley.

1350. Hugh Ffordyan,|| on resignation, p. by Sir Rob. de Morley, Kt. (M. of I.)

1361. William Penne¶ (chaplain), on death of Ffordian, p. Sir John Gresley, Kt., who had this turn through John Luterel, and he of Sir William de Morley.

1382. William Clerke\*\* (accolyte), on death of Penne, p. Sir John Gresley, Kt.

\* William de Shulton occurs in the P.M. Inquisitions as acting, when rector of Colton, with one Wm. Cruddeworth, chaplain, for the Abbot and Convent of Merivale, near Atherstone.

† William de Houghton, 19 Ed. 3, was summoned for a seizure of property at Osgarthorp; he acted as attorney for Sir Thomas Wastineys while the latter served in France, 1345 A.D.

‡ William de Noble as a sub-deacon, ought not to have been accepted by the Bishop. The Council of London, 1268 A.D., required all incumbents to be priests.

§ 36 Ed. 3, William de Hanley sued Wm. Clerk for his accounts, while acting as his bailiff at Colton.

|| Among the Ingestre deeds is a grant dated 11 Ed. 3, from Richard Ffordyan to Roger de Sodynton, and Agnes his wife, of lands in Elmhurst. Possibly this Hugh came of the same family,

¶ For a family named Penne, now holding land here (see deeds and Steward's account roll), 1361 A.D. (XVII. Kal. Septh.), Sir John Gresley, Kt., and Joan his wife, are described in the Lichfield registers as presenting William Penne "jure dimissionis manerii de Colton eisdem ad firmam, unā cum advocacione ecclesie per Johannem Luttrell, &c."

\*\* William Clerke was notorious for turbulence (*v.* Plea rolls). His appointment, being only an acolyte, was an abuse from the first.

(1382 A.D.) "XIV. die Augusti anno domini supradicto apud Hey

1385 c. John Mayston, p. Sir John de Gresley, Kt.

1395. John Mellereth, rector of Castle Frome (Herefordshire), by exchange with Mayston, p. Sir Thomas Gresley.

1403. James Conyngeston (cler.), on resignation, p. Sir Tho. Gresley.

1404. John Barston (presb.), on resignation of J. C., p. Sir Tho. Gresley.

1407. John Russhebury (chapl.), resignation of B., p. Sir Tho. Gresley.

John Russhebury, rector of the church of Colton, attests a grant of land from Richard de Hampton (al. Richard Wymer) to Sir Tho. Gresley, Kt., 1410 A.D.—and in 1418 A.D., had a power of attorney to deliver lands at Morton to the same Sir Thomas. *v. Gresley Charters*, 388 and 400 B. (Ed. Jeayes). Previously, in 1411, he witnessed a deed conveying land at “Newlands” from John Banastur to Sir Thomas.

1427. Henry Villers\* (or Poule), chapl., p. Sir Tho. Gresley.

1431. Roger Hode (presb.), resignation of Poule, p. Sir Tho. Gresley.

1432 A.D. Robert Byrchore (presb.), p. Sir Tho. Gresley, Kt.

1441. John Thorpe (presb.), resignation of R. B., p. Sir Thomas de Gresley, Kt.

1447. John Fflynton (presb.), p. John Gresley, armgr.

wode, Wms. Clerke de Colton, accolitus, admissus fuit ad ecclesiam de Colton vacantem, et institutus in eadem, ad presentacionem Dni Johannis de Gresleye, militis, habentis jus presentandi ad eandem hac vice, ratione dimissionis manerii de Colton ad firmam unâ cum advocacione ecclesie per Johannem Luttrell factæ, qui quidem Johannes Lutrell habuit dictum manerium et advocacionem dicte ecclesie ad terminum vite sue, ex concessione domini Willielmi de Morleye, militis, veri ejusdem ecclesie patroni, et incepit dicta ecclesia vacare XIX. Kalen. Sept. per mortem domini Willielmi Penne, ultimi rectoris ejusdem. (*Lichfield registers*, and compare deed in the appendix.)

\* Possibly Henry Villers and Henry Poule are distinct; and Poule followed Villers. The episcopal register does not make it clear—and, as the interval is so short—it seemed safer to identify them.



1451. Thomas Wolstote (brother), Canon regular of Roucester, p. John Gresley, armgr. He resigns in 1458 A.D., and is re-appointed the same year to Colton (on surrendering Rugeley Vicarage).

1460 c. Thomas Fleccher (brother), p. Sir John Gresley, Kt.

1466. William Gresley (B. C. L.), on death of T. Fletcher, p. Sir John Gresley.

1470 c. Humphrey Brat, p. Sir John Gresley, Kt.

1499. John Gresley (cleric), death of Brat, p. Sir Tho. Gresley, Kt.

1500. George Tatton (chapl), resignation of J. Gresley, p. Sir Tho. Gresley.

1544. John Wilson (chapl.), death of G. Tatton, p. Sir Geo. Gresley, Kt.

1558. Thomas Tatton (cleric), resignation of J. Wilson, p. Sir Wm. Gresley, Kt.

1573. Roger Re (clerc), death of Tho. Tatton, p. Tho. Blunt and Wm. Yate.

1592. Christopher Hunt,\* p. probably Hunt, (he was rector 59 years, *v.* burial register).

1651. John Saunders,† M.A. (on death of Hunt), he was Prebendary of Pipe Parva in Lichf. Cathedral, 1672-1683, p. Lord Aston.

\* Christopher Hunt's tenancy of the living for the remarkable number of 59 years is mentioned particularly in the Burial register.

† A mural monument of white and gray marble, with the arms last mentioned on page 201, at the foot, and this inscription :—

Conduntur Reliquiæ

Johannis Saunders, Rectoris de Leigh, et utraque academia in  
artibus magistri,

Filii primogeniti

Johannis Saunders, Rectoris de Coulton, Prebendarii de Lichfield,  
atque olim apud Oxonienses Seti Orielis collegii præpositi,  
et Dorotheæ uxoris ejus, filicæ Johannis Crompton  
de Stone Park armigeri, neptisque Gualteri

Domini Aston, Baronis de Forfar.

Hæc monumenta

1683. John Taylor, M.A., on death of J. Saunders.

1701. Samuel Spateman, death of J. Taylor, presented by Walter Warner, (possibly Lander (?))

1706. Richard Oneley, resignation of S. Spateman, p. Rob. Lander.

1708. John Taylor, M.A., on resignation of R. Oneley, p. Rev. John Spateman, of Yoxhall.

1738. John Taylor, M.A. (made also rector of Leigh, A.D. 1749), on death of J. Taylor.

1767. John Landor, death J. Taylor, p. Robert Landor, of Rugeley.

1806. Charles Savage Landor, M.A., on death of J. Landor, p. Landor.

1849. Abdiel Seaton, M.A., on death of C. S. Landor, p. Mr. James Palmer, of Lichfield, patron this turn (by purchase).

1874. Frederick Perrot Parker, M.A., on death of A. Seaton, p. Rev. Charles Wilson Landor, M.A.

In 1526 A.D., by deed executed at Colton, the next presentation was assigned (22 March, 16 Hen. 8) by Geo. Gresley, armgr., to Leonard Harewood, gent., and Christopher Hunt, yeoman.

In A.D. 1499 a Papal dispensation was granted to John Gresley, clerk, then aged 17, to hold ecclesiastical benefices without stint!

On a tablet, placed on the south wall of the chancel in Ashbourne Church by his grandson, John Saunders, M.A., Rector of Colton and Prebendary of Lichfield, is described as "formerly Provost of Oriel College, Oxford;" but this is an error, as the dates alone will clearly prove. The John Saunders

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Memorię parentum ejus sacra,  
Johannes Saunders, LL.B.  
Ecclesię Anglicanę Presbyter,  
Propriis sumptibus extruenda fecit.

who succeeded Dr. John Toulson\* as Provost of Oriel, A.D. 1644, was a Doctor of Physic. He married Dorothy Wentworth, sister of the Dean of Armagh, and dying in A.D. 1653, was buried under the high altar in Oriel College Chapel.† His arms are thus given—"Party per chevron, argent and sable, three elephants' heads erased counter-changed, impaling those of Wentworth (his wife's family). John Saunders, Rector of Colton, was a Master of Arts, and married Dorothy Crompton,‡ of Stone Park, a cousin of Lord Aston's. He became Prebendary of Pipe Parva in Lichfield Cathedral in A.D. 1672, and dying in 1682, was buried at Colton. His arms were—"Sable a chevron ermine, between three bulls' heads cabosed argent." The mistake has arisen from the names being identical, from their living about the same time, and from the curious coincidence that each of them married a wife named Dorothy.

The *Daily Journal* for 1735 mentions that "On Sunday, Sept. 7, died the Rev. Mr. John Taylor, M.A., Rector of Colton, which living he had possessed 27 years; and was esteemed a good preacher, a good liver, a good parent, a good friend, and an example worthy the imitation of all."

In A.D. 1749 a dispensation passed the Great Seal to enable John Taylor, M.A., Chaplain to the

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\* Le Neve's *Fasti ecclesiæ*, 621 page.

† *Vide* Ant. Wood's "*Fasti Oxon.*"

‡ Dorothy, wife of the Rev. John Saunders, was buried at Colton, 1667 A.D.

Dowager Countess of Uxbridge, to hold the rectory of Colton together with that of Leigh, both in this county.

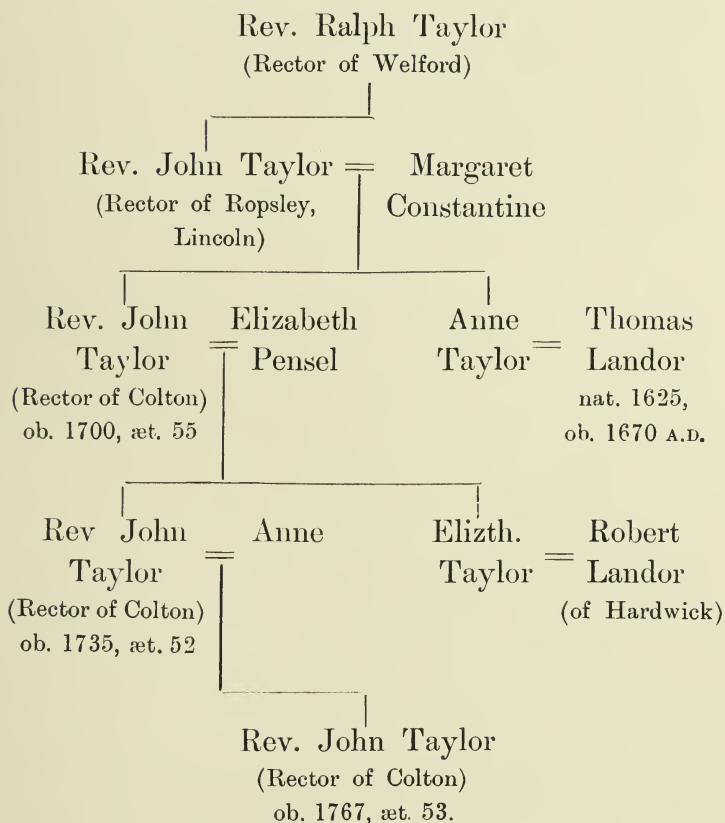
In the year 1749 A.D., Mr. John Taylor, being known for a warm partisan of the Jacobite cause, was sent off to Stafford gaol, when "the young Pretender" Charles Edward reached Derby; but this precaution on the part of those in power proved a signal failure, as the frequent visits paid him by the gentlemen of the county, who flocked into Stafford for that purpose, are said to have made far more commotion and excitement than could possibly have arisen had he remained unmolested at Colton.

The presentation of the Taylors is understood by their connection with the Landors. The latter family had been represented in Colton since Henry VIIIth's time—witness the "subsidy" roll and an Ingestre deed of James Ist (*vide* appendix). The following descent of the Taylors may help to make the connection clearer (see next page).

The Rev. Charles Savage Landor was the brother of Walter Savage Landor, the poet, being the second son of Dr. Landor, of Warwick, by his wife, Miss Savage; he was a man of strong character and considerable ability like his brother, well known in Staffordshire, and decidedly autocratic in his parish.

The neglected condition of Parish Churches in the latter part of the last century is too well illustrated by the use to which Colton Church tower was put down to the year 1806 A.D.: the belfry being fitted up and used as the Rector's pigeon-house (!)—

## TAYLOR PEDIGREE.



a state of things rightly put a stop to by the churchwardens when the Rev. Charles S. Landor entered upon the living. The case was submitted for Counsel's opinion, and remains in the precedent book at the Bishop's Registry, Lichfield.

This neglect did not extend to the "services;" for *daily* service was held in Colton Church by the Rev. John Landor.

Bishop Roger de Norbury's Register (p. 10) mentions that "a visitation was held in Colton Parish Church, 1322 A.D. The parishioners of Abbot's Bromley having failed to attend, were to be cited by the Dean of Stafford and Newport and excommunicated for their neglect."

Many conjectures have been hazarded respecting the derivation of "Colton." There can be no question that the *Col* in Colton and Colwich are the same; possibly taken from the name of an early possessor; but we believe the truer explanation is "*Hill*" *inclosure (or farm)*. "Ascending the Coll" is an expression still used in West Dorset,\* said to be derived from an old British word having its synonyme in the Latin "*collis*," a hill; a Norse word "*colla*" is also given with a similar meaning, whence Col-kirk is explained to be "the church-on-the-hill." Now the "Martlin" Hill is the feature which distinguishes Colton; as Haywood Hill stamps Colwich (which lies beneath it). Among early races (witness the Australian Aborigines), each spot is named by its most marked characteristic.

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\* "Ancient Dorset," by C. Warne, Esqre, F.S.A. (p. 177.)

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MISCELLANEOUS DEEDS & PAPERS  
RELATING TO THE PARISH OF COLTON.

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Inq. Post. Mort. 6, Ed. 1, 1277. No. 33

An Inquisition made by Robert, son of John de Acmundeston (Admaston), Adam Morell, William de Fraxino (Ash), Richard Wymer, William son of Roger de Couton, Hugh de Hampton, Richard de Gratewych, Robert de Hampton, John son of Walter de Colton, John de la Venele (Lane), John son of John de Acmundeston, and Nicholas le Messenger of Acmundeston, who say on their oath “that William le Mareschal had in Colton 17s. 11d. of yearly rent; whereof William le Jovene, seynur, his freeholder, renders yearly one\* mark, and Nicholas le Messenger† yearly renders 3s. 8d. for four plots of meadow which they hold at farm, and the said Nicholas renders yearly 1d. for a certain moor which he has in fee, and 1d. he received from Benet Leigh. Also the same William le Mareschal received 9d. yearly from the herbage of his portion of a certain wood called Wylderideley, in which he had no

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\* This is the merk rent claimed by Ralph Hosé, in the suit with Nicholas Mavesyn, William le Jovene’s ancestor (5 King John).

† Nicholas le Messenger lived at Admaston; and the land was probably part of Wilderley—which, we find, subsequently belonged to Anselm le Mareschal,

severalty except the moiety of the demesne, and in which all the freemen of the circumjacent Vills intercommon throughout the year. Also they say that the said William le Mareschal had the advowson of the Church of St. Mary of Colton, which said church is worth yearly 20 marks to the use of the parson who holds it. Also they say that the aforesaid William le Mareschal held the aforesaid tenements of John Hose\* by the service of 20s. yearly, which Henry son of Hugh de Colton and John Gryffin freely hold of the same William, and paid annually to the said John Hose for the said William, so that no other service remained for them to pay, except their homage and escheat when it happens."

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1277 A.D. Abstract of Fines, 6 Ed. 1. Memb. 8.

The King receives the homage of John le Mareschal, son and heir of William le Mareschal deceased, for all the lands which his said father William held of the King in capite; and the King having ascertained by the Inquisition which he ordered to be made that the said William le Mareschal had a rent of 17s. 11d. in the Vill of Colton, which was seised into the hands of King Henry during the disturbances in the realm, and which still remains in the hands of the present King

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\* The presence of an interpolated "Mareschal" interest, between Hosé, and the Mavesyns, de Coltons, and Griffyn's, has been already accounted for,

(Ed. I.), and the redemption of which pertains to the King, the Sheriff of Staffordshire is thereupon ordered to accept security from the said John for the said redemption, and then to give him full seisin of the same rent.

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11 Ed. 1. 1282 A.D. Inq. post. mort.

Extent made at Colton, on Monday next after the feast of St. Gregory, in the presence of Henry de Colton and Roger de Took by the oath of divers persons, who say that John le Mareschall held in Colton of Henry de Colton and John Gryffin the advowson of the Church of St. Mary in Colton, which is worth yearly 20 marks, *and he did no service therefore to anyone.\** Also he held there of rent of assize of free tenants yearly, together with the rent of one acre of meadow, demised at will 11s. 5d. yearly and no more, because Elizabeth the wife of David, son of Gryffin, held the residue in dower before the death of the said John, and which is now in the hands of our Lord the King. He also had there of the herbage of the Wood of Wylesdale 4d., also he had there *a certain wood in division with John de Wasteneys†*—but nothing is derived therefrom,

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\* John le Mareschal had evidently succeeded in getting rid of the Hosé interest.

† What wood is this? “Ashleyhay-wood” belonged, we know, to Anselm le Mareschal, but it is uncertain whether John de Wasteneys shared that; though its site adjoined the Wasteneys manor.

except when there is a sale of wood, and then he received half the profit. Also they say that William son of John le Mareschal is his next heir, and he was five years old at the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross last past.

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### GRESLEY CHARTULARY.

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“A son tres noble senior Wake, S. de Lydel, Thomas de Gastineys q com aller Mons. Willi de Gasteneys son pere en Gascoyn en la Svice le dit Senior lui dona la gard et la marriage le dit Thomas et puis apres la venu Mons. Willm. en Angleterre p maledi quil prit en Gascoyne hastinet morus, lessant le dit Thomas dedans age. charges de deux freres et ouyt (huit) sours, ‘degariz a la prier, Mons. Edmond de Gastineys.’\* Contre son fait a dona le corps de dit Thomas a Mons. Roger de Swynenarton contre le tenure de son fait avanditte et puis al age le dit Thomas le Baron de Stafford, de qui il teint le Manore de Colton, il claine le marriage.”

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A copie of a Lewn layd for ye poor of ye Parish

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\* The meaning of this clause is not clear. It is to be feared the transcriber of the original deed into the chartulary was not sufficiently careful.

of Coulton, taken from ye originall in ye hands of Mr. Richard Bagott, as followeth :—

Anno Regin Eliz. 40. April 14, 1598 A.D.

	s.	d.
Thomas Gresley, Esq. ... ..	8	0
The Old Wood with Snaylhorn*	10	0
The Old Laund ... ..	3	6
The sheep close, Birchencroft,† Shearbrook‡ Leasow and Cawdwell Spring,§ in the hands of Samuel Royl ... ..		
Cockett for Parchfield Meadow ... ..	3	4
Bearcroft   and Aston Meadow ... ..	2	6
Coney Greave¶ and Almholme**	3	1
New Leasowe and Foxholes ... ..	3	4
Mr. Hunt for Mill Ditch ... ..	0	6
Mr. Arthur Gresley for Martlin... ..	1	0
Anthonie Bagott,†† gentleman ... ..	5	0
Thomas Lees ... ..	2	0
Ja Balle ... ..	1	0
Robert Balle ... ..	2	6
H. Bratt ... ..	4	0
William Yate ... ..	5	6
Thomas Butler ... ..	2	6
William Sawyer ... ..	4	0
Richard Robinson for Buckland ... ..	5	0
Mr. Arthur Gresley ... ..	4	0
Samuel Royl ... ..	2	6
Robert Wiggin ... ..	2	0
William Tooth ... ..	4	6
Richard Bradbury ... ..	3	4
Thomas Parton ... ..	2	0

\* 151 and 153 on Plan.

† 172.

‡ Shearbrook = *Clear brook* [modern “Morton” Brook].

§ 176 (on plan).

|| 309 (on plan).

¶ 301 (on plan).

\*\* 611 (on plan).

†† Owner of Little Hay manor.

Henry Smith	...	...	...	...	3	4
Thomas Pegg	...	...	...	...	2	0
John Baggaley	...	...	...	...	2	0
John Heyward	...	...	...	...	1	8
William Butler	...	...	...	...	1	0
Richard Robinson for Big Intack	...	...	...	...	2	0
Colwich for land, within the Parish of Colton.						
Mr. George Boughey, for all his Meadow Grounds,						
his launts, Echinghills,* New Closes, Trent						
Fields, his Closes in Hamley† Mill Ditch, and						
ye Oat Croft	...	...	...	...	5	0
John Wood	...	...	...	...	4	0
John Oldacre, for all his Meadow Grounds, his						
Leasow at Hamley Heath, his other Inclosures						
late taken from the Fields	...	...	...	...	2	6
Widow Beardall, for all her Meadow Grounds,						
and one Leasow in Hamley						
...	...	...	...	...	1	0
Robert Smith, for two Leasows in Sentaff‡	...	...	...	...	1	6
John Topping, for his Meadow Grounds, his						
Leasow in Hamley, and ye Holmes						
...	...	...	...	...	1	0
John Woodward, for his Meadow Ground in						
Coulton Parish...						
...	...	...	...	...	1	0
John Wilson, for Meadow Grounds and late						
Inclosures						
...	...	...	...	...	0	4
Total					£5	16 11

### § SUBSIDY ROLL, 1 Ed. 3 (1327 A.D.).

s. d.

Ralph de Stafford ... .. 4 0

\* 15 (on plan).

† 679, &amp;c. (on plan.)

‡ 462 (on plan).

‡ *Vide* Vol. 7 (S. H. C.) where an account of this earliest Staffs. subsidy roll is given by General Wrottesley. It was “a twentieth” on movable property, excepting agricultural tools, &c., and plate, jewels, armour, &c.



Anselm Mareschal	...	...	6	0
William Griffen	...	...	4	0
Robert de Littlehay	...	...	8	0
Henry Colemon	...	...	4	0
*Henry de Caldewell	...	...	2	0
*John Clechehok	...	...	4	0
*William Maynard	...	...	2	2
John le Baxter	...	...	1	0
*John Galeweye	...	...	0	6
Roger Peres	...	...	1	0
*William de Hondesacre	...	...	0	1
Avicia Tenerai	...	...	2	9
*Reginald de Wasteneys	...	...	1	6
Stephen de Slyndon	...	...	1	4
John Hawys	...	...	1	3
*Adam Brown	...	...	0	6
*Henry de Morhay	...	...	0	10
*John Andreu	...	...	0	6
*John le Counter	...	...	2	6
*Xtiana Pourcey	...	...	1	0
Robert le Smith	...	...	0	6
Ralph Grym	...	...	3	6
*Richard de Holihurst	...	...	1	0
Robert son of John	...	...	1	6
Geoffrey at Ash	...	...	1	6
William Craddock	...	...	1	0
Total for Colton			64	0

## SUBSIDY ROLL 6, Ed. 3 (1333 A.D.).

			s.	d.
Anselm Mareschal	...	...	8	4
William Gryffen	...	...	5	0
Robert de Littlehay	...	...	10	0
Henry Colemon	...	...	6	0
William Cradock	...	...	6	4
William Robyn	...	...	2	0
John Hawys	...	...	1	0
Roger Peres	...	...	1	0
Stephen de Slyndon	...	...	1	0
Avice Tenerey	...	...	3	4
John le Baxter	...	...	0	3
Adam le Smyth	...	...	1	0
Thomas son of Matilda	...	...	1	6
Ralph Scote...	...	...	0	6
Robert son of John	...	...	2	5
Geoffrey at Ash	...	...	2	5
Total			52	1

It will be observed that 27 persons contribute to the subsidy of 1 Ed. 3, against 16 to that of 6 Ed. 3. How is this to be explained? May not the first subsidy include the "whole" of Colton; while the second was drawn only from the tenants of the "Mareschal" (or church manor), including those of the manor of "Little Hay"? Ralph de Stafford heads the first, as guardian and representative of the de Wasteney's heir, then under age—but Anselm le Mareschal, the second roll. If this explanation can

be accepted, we then have the names of the de Wastiney's manor tenants, as follows:—Henry de Caldwell, John Clechok, William Maynard, John Galweye, William de Hondesacre, Reginald de Wasteneys, Adam Brown, Henry de Morhay, John Andreu, John le Counter, Xtiana Pourcey, Ralph Grym, Richard de Holihurst.

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Colton paid by the subsidy roll of 46 Ed. 3 (for Xths and XVths) 76s. 8d., but the names are not entered.

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In 51 Ed. 3, it paid, through John le Clerk, John Smith and John de Morhay, 40s. 4d.

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In 2 Hen. 4 (1400 A.D.) the Colton subsidy amounted to 38s. 4d.

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#### SUBSIDY ROLL, 34 and 35 Hen. 8 (1543 A.D.)

From the original at the Record Office.

	s.	d.		s.	d.
John Forde	... 5	0	John Toste	... 0	2
Richard Leye	... 1	0	Xtopher Badeley	0	4
Richard Watson	... 0	4	James Addyson	... 0	3
Thomas Cart	... 0	1	Ric. Underwood	... 0	4
Roger Bywall	... 0	3	John Wall	... 0	2
Robert Wolf	... 0	1	John Smallewood	0	3
George Lees	... 0	4	James Newell	... 0	4
Robert Pegge	... 0	1	James Huntbach	... 0	4
John Smyth	... 1	0	Tho. Haywood	... 0	2

	s.	d.		s.	d.
Roger Rodow ...	0	3	John Walker ...	0	3
Ric. Launder ...	0	2	Tho. Barne ...	0	2
Rob. Brockhurst...	0	4	Wm. Stedman ...	0	4
William Millward	0	2	Nichls. Overton ...	0	2
Roger Tagge ...	0	1	Tho. Bagge...	0	4
William Tunstall...	0	2	Ralph Grene ...	1	8
Tho. Brykyn ...	0	4	John Grene...	1	4
Wm. Gratwood ...	0	10	John Geflyng ...	0	10
John Allot ...	0	2	David Gold...	0	4
John Halley ...	0	2	William Grene ...	1	4
John Jane ...	0	2	Thomas Salt ...	0	4
Tho. Nevall...	0	4	Wm. Okys ...	0	10
Eliz. Wigen ...	0	3	John Peyt ...	0	2
Tho. Wigen ...	0	2	Agnes Normanfyll		
Robert Shaw ...	0	2	(w.) ...	0	2
Geo. Slyndon ...	0	4	Tho. Hanley ...	0	4
Margaret Slyndon			John Assheley ...	0	2
(w.) ...	0	4	Roger Sawyer ...	0	4
Ralph Dayntre ...	0	3	Henry Greene ...	0	4
Wm. Lloundes ...	0	2	John Pedley ...	0	2
John Byll ...	0	4	Thomas Sawyer ...	0	10
Joanna Wolrich			Thomas Iresh ...	0	4
(w.) ...	0	10	James Woolrich ...	0	2
James Byll ...	0	4	Thomas Brett ...	0	10
William White ...	0	4	Agnes Brett (w.)...	0	10
William Gretwood,			Wm. Brett ...	0	3
jun. ...	0	2	George Bratt ...	0	3
Tho. Sargand ...	13	4	Nichls. Bratt ...	0	3
Richard Heymes...	0	3	Stephen Downes...	0	2
John Buttyngdale	0	2	Margaret Ley (w.)	0	3

	s.	d.		s.	d.
Richd. Swanote...	0	1	David Ansell ...	0	3
Humphrey Bayane	0	1	John Mason...	0	2
Edward Butler ...	0	2	Thomas Lovat ...	0	4
Alice Backhouse			Nicholas Bowers...	0	1
(w.) ... ..	0	3	Robt. Smyth ...	1	4
Humphrey Frost...	0	3	John Darne...	1	4
Tho. Backhouse ...	0	3	Wm. Smyth ...	0	2
Richard Wegen ...	0	1	James Bawse ...	0	2
Roger Blest ..	0	2	William Gervis ...	0	10
James Lander ..	0	3	John Whittington	0	4
Xtopher Mattheve	0	4	Humphy. Gervis ..	0	4
Thomas Brygge ...	0	3	Thomas Twyst ...	0	4
William Brockhurst	0	2	Eliz. Halley (w.)...	0	2
Ric. Nowell... ..	0	10	George Bratt ...	0	3
William Smyth ...	0	4	Alice Whittington		
Henry Byshop ...	0	3	(w.) ... ..	0	2
James Allot...	0	4	John Gaywood ...	0	4
John Blest ... ..	0	3	Robert Chatterton	0	2
Richard Brett ...	0	3	William Ashley ..	0	3
Geo. Boughey ...	0	2	John Ashley ...	0	10
Joanna Blest(w.) ..	0	3	William Tyllesley	0	4
Thomas Barton ...	0	2	John Shropshire...	0	4
John Smart... ..	0	1	John Kenrick ...	0	3
Edward Newall ...	0	1			
Anne Younge (w.)	0	1	Total amount ...	70	0

(121 persons paid in Colton).

## SUBSIDY ROLL, 37 Hen. 8 (1546 A.D.)

			s.	d.
Anthony Wolseley...	...	...	20	0
John Forde ...	...	...	14	0
Richard Leyye	...	...	4	0
John Smyth	...	...	4	0
Richard Watson	...	..	4	0
Nicholas Butler	...	...	3	4
John Masters	...	...	3	4
George Lees	...	...	3	4
John Alcock	...	...	4	8
Anthony Oldacre	...	...	3	4
Thomas Dunne	...	...	3	4
William Arnold	...	...	3	4
William Bayte	...	...	2	0
Elizabeth Layeson	...	...	4	0
Thomas Baydeley	...	...	3	4
Total ..	...	...	<u>£4</u>	<u>0 0</u>

## SUBSIDY ROLL, COLTON, 1563 A.D.

			£	s.	d.
de Willielmo Gresley (pro terris, £30)	...	...	4	0	0
de Ricardo Leyye (pro bonis, £5)	...	...	0	8	4
de Johanne Smythe (pro bonis, £5)	...	...	0	8	4
de Georg. Smythe (pro bonis, £4)	...	...	0	6	8
de Johanne Alcocke (pro bonis, £4)	...	...	0	6	8
de Sampson Boughey (pro bonis, £4)	...	...	0	6	8
de Roberto Pegge (pro terris, 20s.)	...	...	0	2	8
Total	...	...	...	<u>£5</u>	<u>19 4</u>



## SUBSIDY ROLL, 39 Eliz. (1597 A.D.), COLTON.

			£	s.	d.
Thomas Gresley, armgr.	...	...	10	0	0
George Boughay	...	...	0	10	8
Thomas Pegge	...	...	0	4	0
Jane Beardall (w.)	..	...	0	8	0
William Buckland	...	...	0	8	0
John Toothe	...	...	0	8	0
			<hr/>		
			£11 18 0		
			<hr/>		

William Yate, Collector.

## SUBSIDY ROLL, 8 James 1 (1611 A.D.)

			£	s.	d.
George Boughey	...	...	2	2	8
Thomas Lees	...	..	1	1	4
Ricd. Beardsall	...	...	3	3	0
Thomas Yate	...	...	3	3	0
Humphrey Bratt	...	...	3	3	0
			<hr/>		
			£12 13 0		
			<hr/>		

“A generall survey of the Boundes and Limitts of this Lordshipp of Coulton in this county of Staffs. Taken by us the jurors for the Court leet of the sd Mannor this 30th day of October, 1651, A.D.”

Beginning from Trent side at ye further side of Trent feild.

1. First we find a little meadow now in the holding

of Robert Atkins, of Bishton, the greatest part of it within this Llordshipp, comonly cal'd Blithmeadow, and adjoining to Bishton mires.

2. From thence we find six landes lying beyond the cross hedge that parts two closes, both now in holding of the said Robert Atkins, to be in this Llordshipp, at both endes the Landes where we find *the meer plowed upp* we have sett two little heapes of stones.

3. From thence crossing the Portway we goe along down the midst of a close now in the holding of Wm. Bishton, down a Bawlk in the said close in the midst whereof grows a crabb tree.

4. From thence we pass over the Lower Hedge and soe goe up the further side of a close in the holding of Sampson Brett, of Coulton, late deceased, till we come to a land in Windmill feild cal'd Theeves hadland.

5. Where we find the Bawlk that was heretofore the parting of the Llordshipp in the said Windmill feild, butting from a hedge of Anthony Beelands, of Bishton, on the one end, to another hedge of the said Anthony Beelands on the other, to be a great part plowed upp on both sides, welh was in bredth before as far as we can find fowr yards.—Alsoe we find a Teemes lengthe of the said Bawlk to be wholly plowed upp by Richard Baker, of Bishton. This Bawlk we went upp, as finding it the Bowndes of this Llordshipp there.

6. From thence we turne over a close of Anthonic Beelands abovesaid into the Asp Lownt belonging to

Mr. Sampson Boughey, and soe along by the lower side of the said ground and furthest hedge, till we come to the further Llount belonging to the said Mr. Boughey, to a meer called the "Brazen Meer," in the said ground, which we find halfe in this Llordshipp; and soe down the said meer till we come to Morton Lane, at the end of the said meer.

7. And soe up the said lane till we come over against the further side of "Roger Heyes," now in the tenure of Richard Baker, of Bishton. All which Lane, containing in length and breadth about three acres, we find to be the Lds. wa (y ?) of this Llordshipp.

8. Out of the said Lane we goe down the further side of all Roger Heyes, all which we find in this Llordshipp, and the meadow at the bottome hereof, till we come to Morton Brook.

From thence along the further side of the said Brook till we come to the further side of Yealds,\* now in the holding of George Yate.

10. From thence we goe along by that Rink hedge till we come to the head of Marshaw† (*sic*) Fflatts, now belonging to Mr. Edward Bagott, of Blithfield.

11. And thence along by the outer hedge, and down by the north side of the said ground, till we come to an ancient meer Bawlk, lying in a close that belongs to Anthonie Abberley, of Admerson.

12. And soe upp that Bawlk till we come to the

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\* 735, 736, 737 (on plan).

† 728 (on plan).

end of a croft that belongs to Lewis Abberley, of Admerson.

13. And soe along by the said croft till we come to the Lea Lane.

14. And thence down the Lea Lane till we come to the outside of Thomas Llees his balkside.

15. And thence by the outside of his hedge till we come to the Portway that goes betwixt Coulton and Admerson.

16. And thence down that way to a ground called "Chappell Fflatts," now in the holding of Anthony Abberley.

17. Thence along the outside of the ditch in the said ground strayt to a ground called "*Ffowell*," now in the holding of Humphrey Webb.

18. Thence along by the out hedge of the said ground, and soe over three closes, till we come to the corner of a close now in the holding of John James, of Steenwood.

19. And soe down the further side of his close till we came to Steenwood side.

20. And thence along the outside of that hedge that goes by the end of the said close till we come to a ground call'd the Hadley, now in the holding of Mr. Edward Bagott abovesaid.

21. Thence along the inside of that Rink hedge (which Mr. Bagott is to make) over the endes of those inclosures till we come to the corner of the "Old Parke."

22. Thence along the outside of the Old Parke hedge till we come to "Meer"\* lane.

23. Thence down the said lane, which we find all in this Llordshipp till we come to Blith.

24. And soe along on the further side of Blith till we come to "Barley Home."

25. Thence upp that lane that leads to Blith-Burie till we come to a close cald *Goldsworth*,† now in the holding of Wm. Lloe (Lowe), of Blithbury.

26. Thence upp by the further hedge of that close till we come to a little short Bawlk in ye said close that leavs out two little Pikes in the said ground, that lie in Ridware, and soe parts the Llordshipp and shootes to "Cutler's Croft" that belongs to Thomas Smith, and is now in the holding of the said Wm. Lloe.

27. Thence uppon land in the said Cutler's Croft, which we conceive to be the Anncient Bawlk plowed upp, that parted the two Llordshipp, at the upper end of which land we have sett a little heap of stones.

28. Thence we pass over into the said Lane againe, and soe along the said Lane to the upper end of "Coulton Hadley."

29. Thence along by the upper end of the said ground till we come to Snealhorne‡ (now Snaylhorn).

30. Thence along by the further side of Snealhorne till we come to a little piece of ground called the

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\* *i.e.*, "Bowling Alley Lane."

† No. 74 (plan).

‡ 151 and 153 (on plan).

“Nettles,” now in the holding of Henry Cotterall, of Blithbury.

31. Thence down the end of the said close till we come to an ancient Bawlk,\* in the midst whereof is an oak, and down that Bawlk till we come to the other end of the said ground, and soe crossing the end till we come into the Llawnd.

32. Thence down the Llawnd, and all along by the Pale side, till we come to “Ashley Heyes.”

33. Thence along by the Rink hedge of the said “Ashley† Heyes, till we come to Trent side.

34. Thence all along by Trent side till we come to that Blithmeadow, adjoining to Bishton Mires, where we first set forth and began.

Ye names of ye Jury summoned to appear at ye great Leet and Court Baron of ye Rt. Honourable ye Lady Gertrude Aston, holden at Colton, ye 15th day of October, 1651, A.D.

Imprimis.—Sampson Boughey, Gent. Jurat.

George Butler,	}Jurt.	Thomas Taylor,	}Jurt.
Ralph Bate,		George Wright, jun.	
George Bate,		Thomas Pedley.	
Humphrey Webb,	}Jurt.	John Pedley,	}Jurt.
Richard Butler,		John Hall.	
Robert Pegg.			

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\* Bawlk, an untilled ridge of land dividing two cultivated portions.

† Evidently the south-east border of Colton, adjoining the Trent.



George Baggaley,	} Jurt.
George Wright, sen.	
Charles Wild.	

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THESE 8 NOT SWORN.

Humphrey Marler.	Richard Whiston.
Thomas Lees	Roger Wilks.
Robert Taylor.	Ed. Robinson.
John Wakelin.	Wm. Sante.

N.B.—The boundaries of Colton parish were perambulated for the last time in 1814 A.D. Mrs. Elizabeth Handy is our authority for this statement, and a better could not be desired.

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“Account of various sales of land made by the Astons to the Bagot family and others, taken from a paper belonging to Lord Bagot (dated 1774) drawn up to correct certain doubts raised by Sir Walter Blount’s agent respecting the *boundaries* of ‘Little Hay’ Manor, Colton :”—

3 March, 1659.—By conveyance from *the Aston family* of the “*Old Park*” in Colton to Sir Hervey Bagot, in trust for Richard Bagot and his heirs, in consideration of £660.

30 June, 1660.—By conveyance from the Aston family of a close called the “Moor,” in Colton, to Sir Harvey Bagot in fee, in consideration of £240.

21 & 22 September, 1691.—By do. from Do. of the “Hurst Wood” and “Colton Hadley’s,” and

\*“Low Corner” in Colton to Sir Walter Bagot, for £420.

[There was some uncertainty whether this last was within the Manor. The witness, an old man named Brown, thought it was ]

22 September, 1681.—By conveyance from the Aston family, the “Blythebury Closes.” in the tenure of Simon Pedley, were granted to Thomas Whitgreave, Esq.

20 January, 1652.—By do. from Do., the “Pear Tree Field,” “Long Field,” and “Little Stubble,” to Tho. Pegg.

20 January 1652.—By do. from Do., the “Ox Close,” in Newlands, and a part of “Blyth Ford” House farm, to Joan Adderley.

27 April, 1653.—By do. from Do. a messuage at Blyth Ford, to Thomas Sherratt.

17 September, 1659.—By do. from Do., a cottage at Stockwell Heath, to John Pedley; rent 6d.

17 September, 1759.—By do. from Do., “Cutler’s Croft,” to Wm. Lowe.

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Royalist Composition Papers, 1st Series, vol. 4, p. 526.  
1648-9, Feby. 1., Colton.

By the Committee for Sequestrations.

Whereas this Committee did the last year lett the

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\* *i.e.*, The corner between Featherbed Lane and Brakenhill Lane.

estate of The Rt. Honble. The Lady Aston her third part, and the annuities to her children allowed for the summe of £264 to be payed to the Treasurer. It is now ordered that, in regard the said estate is much impaired by tillage, that it can not yield the profit it did formerly, she shall hold the said estate for the yeare ensuing, yielding and paying, therefor, to the said Treasurer the summe of £226 13s. 4d. And to be allowed out of the same two parts in three of all the Parliamentary Taxes, wch shall be assessed or imposed upon the premises during the said term.

H. AGARDE,  
Cler. Concil.

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Stafford. Vol. 4, p. 528. April 2, 1850.

By the Commissioners for Sequestracions for  
the County of Stafford.

Whereas two parts of the estate of Gertrude Lady Aston, Widdowe, are sequestered by reason of her recusancie.

It is ordered by this Comittee that the said Ladie shall hould the saide parts for this present yeare, paying and discharging all annuities issuing out of the saide estate, and to this Comittee the some of £220. The one moytie in hand and the other moytie at Michaelmas next, and likewise paying all Parliamentarie taxes for the whole estate, the other third part due to herself, &c.

JOHN LEY,  
Agent to the Commissioners.

Vol. 4, p. 530.

To the Honble. the Commissioners for Compounding  
with Delinquents.

These are to certify your Honours, that wee have upon an exact survey of the Lady Aston's estate, Widdow, leased the same for the next yeare ensewing to Robert Robotham, gent., for the rent of £365.

And wee do further upon request humbly certify that there hath beene yeerely the some of £140 allowed for the maintenance of 3 of her younger children, by Walter Lord Aston, deceased, her husband, by former Comittees; but, refer it to your Honours to establish or disallowe the same, as it shall seeme fitt to you, humbly submitting it to youre grave consideracons, and subscribe ourselves

Your humble servants,

[Signed]

J. DANVERS.

JOHN PIERCE.

Stafford, January 31, 1650.

Vol. 4, p. 531. 2 Febr., 1650.

I Henry Agard, Clarke to the late Comittee for Sequestracons in the Countie of of Stafford, do make oath that the said Comittee having sequestered 2 parts in 3 of the estate of the Rt. Honble. Dame Gertrude Aston, the relict of The Rt. Honble. Walter Lord Aston, deceased. Mr. Herbert Aston one of her younger sons, claymed the estate to himself, and other the children, given to them by their late Father—and the Comittee forbearing to allow them till they had perused the deeds, the said

Mr. Herbert Aston produced them, and thereupon the Committee did allow them the said annuities.

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Feb. 26, 1650. Vol. 4, p. 524.

The Humble Peticon of Dame Gertrude Aston, the relict of Walter Lord Aston, deceased.

SHEWETH,—

That two parts of three of your Petitioners estate, in the County of Stafford, being sequestered for her recusancy. Your Petitioner became constantly a tenant to the same at a full and rack rent, that the said lands lying for the most part upon tillage, and the ground soe barren that noe profit can be rayased out of it, but by great industry and extraordinary charges; and therefore, your Petitioner the last summer was at great charges in tillage and manureing and lost the then summer's profit to make it ready for corne, and in September last, being the proper season, did sow a great part of it with Wheate and Rye. That your Commissioners have lately contracted with one Robt. Robotham, for the said estate for the yeare ensuing, to begin at 25th March next, by which means your Petitioner is like not only to loose all her charges she hath bin at in tillage, and the last summer's profit, but also the corne which she hath sowne, and no advantage arise by it to the estate, but losse for the future. Your Petitioner, likewise, hath constantly had allowed her by the former Committee, as likewise by the now Commissioners in the county of Stafford, the sume of £140, being an annuity charged upon her joynture by the husband of your

Petitioner, Walter Lord Aston, deceased, for the maintenance of her younger children ; but now by the Commissioners denied, affirming it not to be in their power without your honours order and allowance to grant it, otherwise willing, as by them acknowledged just and due, they having perused the evidence, as by the affidavit of Henry Agarde, Clarke to the former Committee, hereunto annexed it doth appeare. Your Petitioner therefore humbly prayeth that your Honours, considering the justness of her petition, the certificates of the Committee and Commissioners hereunto annexed, and that sixteen of her grandchildren have the most part of their livelyhood from her, that she may hould her estate as formerly, or have satisfaction for the charges she was att in her tillage and for her losse of the last summer's. profit, and the former allowance for her children, and liberty to reape her corne. Or if your Honours shall doubt and conceive that anything is prejudicial to the profit of the State, that you will graunt a power to the Commissioners in the countrey to heare and determyn the case ; your Petitioner and the witnesses to the said deeds of annuitye, being soe aged that they cannot possibly be able to come to London.

And your Petitioner will ever pray, &c.

GERTRUDE ASTON.

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Referred to Mr. Readinge and the Commissioners in the countrey to proceed according to instructions.

April 16th, 1651.

Simon Smith of the city of Westminster, gent.,



maketh oath before the Commissioners for Compounding, &c., that he did see Sir Walter Aston, Knight and Baronett, seale and 'deliver the 3 severall deeds now showed unto him, at or neare about the time of the dates thereof, and that he did then endorse his name on the back side of them as a witenesse to the sealinge and deliveringe of them.

[Signed]

SIMON SMYTH.

June 18, 1651, vol. 4, p. 540.

Upon the peticon of Herbert Aston, John Aston, and Gertrude Aston, three of the children of Walter Lord Aston, deceased (hereunto annexed). It is ordered that it be referred to Mr. Readinge to propoes and examine the matter of the said Petition and state and report the case to us.

[Signed]

EDW. WINSLOW.

RIC. MOORE.

June 18, 1651 A.D.

To the Honourable Commissioners for Compounding.  
The humble petition of Herbert Aston, John Aston,  
and Gertrude Aston, 3 of the Children of  
Walter Lord Aston, deceased.

SHEWETH,—

That the Petitioners' father, Walter, Lord Aston, by 3 several deeds of annuities, all of them bearing date 19 November, 1625, did give and grant out of all his manor of Colton, in the County of Stafford, to the Petitioner, Herbert Aston, £50 a yeare during his life, to John Aston £50 a yeare during his life,

to Gertrude Aston £40 a yeare during her life. That the said mannor of Colton had been for several yeares, and still is, under sequestracon for the recusancie of Dame Gertrude Aston, mother to the Petitioners, and that the former Committees have allwayes upon the p<sup>e</sup>rusall of the sayd deeds of annuities, suffered your Petitioners quietly to enjoy their said severall and respective annuities according to the said deeds. But the now Commissioners for Sequestracon in the sayd countie of Stafford have lately refused to allow the said severall annuities, alledging that it is not in their power to do it without direcon and order from your Honors.

The Petitioners humbly move that upon prooffe made of their sayd deeds before your Honors, their said several annuities, and the arrears thereof, may be allowed them as formerly, and that they may have your order for the receiving and quiet enjoying of their said annuities out of the sayd mannor of Colton according to their father's grant.

And your Petitioners shall pray, &c.

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Referred to Mr. Readinge.

T. Bayley.

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Royalist composition Papers, 1st series, vol. 4, p. 535.

According to your order of the 16th June, 1650 A.D., upon the petition of Herbert Aston and John Aston, sonnes, and of Gertrude Aston, daughter, of Walter Lord Aston, deceased, desiring allowance of each of their annuities, out of the

manor of Colton, in the County of Stafford, now sequestered for the recusancy of Dame Gertrude Aston, widow, their mother. I finde that the said Walter Lord Aston, by the name of Sir Walter Aston, of Tixall, in the said county of Stafford, Knight and Baronett, by his deed indented bearing date the 19th of November, 1625, did give and graunt unto the said Herbert Aston one annuity of yearly rent of 50li., issuing out of the mannor of Colton in the said county of Stafford, and divers messuages, lands, and tenements in Colton and Blithbury in the said county, Habend to the said Herbert Aston and his assignes for his natural life, paiable quarterly, at Xmas, Lady-day, Midsomer, and Michaelmas, by equall porcons; the first payment to be made at such of the quarter daies as should first happen after the death of Sir W. Aston.

And by his like deed of the same date did give and graunt unto the said John Aston a like annuity of £50 out of the same maunor and lands, during his life, paiable as aforesaid. And by his like deed indented of the same date did give and graunt unto the said Gertrude Aston oue annuity or yearly rent of £40, out of the same mannor and lands during her life paiable as aforesaid. In each of which deedes there is contained a power of Renvention by the graunter during his life by any writeing signed with his hand, or by his last will and testament, as by the said three deeds now produced, under the hands and seales of the said Sir W. Aston, and deposed by Symon Smith, gent., a witness endorsed thereupon,

to be sealed and delivered at or near the date appeareth.

And it is deposed by Henry Agarde, gent., Clark to the late Committee of Stafford, that the said Committee sequestered two parts in three of the said Dame Gertrude Aston, and Mr. Herbert Aston, one of her youngersonnes, claimed certaine annuities, amounting to 140li., issueing out of the estate to himself and other the children by their late father's gift; and the Committee forbearing to allow them till they had produced the deeds, Mr. Aston produced them, and thereupon the Committee did allow them the said annuities.

And it is certified by the present Commissioners of Stafford, the 31st day of January, 1650, that they had upon an exact survey let the said Ladie's landes this yeare for £365, and that they finde that there hath bene yearly 140li. allowed by the former Committee, for the maintenance of 3 of the younger children, but refer it to you to establish or dis-allow the same.

And I finde that the Commissioners for Stafford the 2nd of April, 1650, did order that the said Lady Aston should hold the said two partes for that yeare, shee prying and discharging all annuities goeing out, of the same, and paying all Parliamentary taxes for the whole estate under the rent of £220 to the Committee.

Soe it is submitted to judgment whether the Peticioners shall not be allowed two third parts of the said £140 annuities out of the Commonwealth's

two parts of the estate, the said Lady paying the third part thereof out of her estates.

Signed, 3rd Sept<sup>br.</sup> 1651,

Jo Readinge.

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1651.—after Sept<sup>br.</sup> 1st.

Order book of the Commissioners for compounding.  
p. 100.

Upon reading ye petition of Herbert Aston, John Aston, and Gertrude Aston, children of Walter Lord Aston deceased, and ye report of Mr. Reading made in ye case touching their clayme to severall annuities out of ye Manor of Coulton, in ye county of Stafford, now sequestered for ye recusancy of Dame Gertrude Aston widdow, and their mother (a copie of which report, &c.) and perusall of our order of ye 11th of March last, made upon hearing ye said report, at which tyme we were not satisfied in ye prooffe, and reading ye returne of ye Commissioners for Sequestrations in Staffordshire, pursuant to our said order of ye 11th of March last and upon consideracon of ye whole matter, we thinke fitte and soe order that ye said annuities be and are hereby allowed, but in regard ye saide children are all recusants, the said Commissioners in ye county of Stafford are to allow them only one third part of their respective annuities, and to pay them only two parts of that third part of their respective annuities

and ye other third part to be paid by ye Lady Aston out of ye third enjoyed by her.

A. S.	J. R.
R. M.	E. W.

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1652 A.D., April 30th.

Gentlemen,

According to your order of 11th of March last in the case of Herbert Aston and John Aston sonnes, and Gertrude Aston daughter to Walter Lord Aston deceased wee have examyned uppon oath William Collins of Coulton in this countie yeoman, who saith that about one yeare before Edgehill Battle by the command of Gertrude Ladie Aston widdowe, late wife to the said Lord Aston, deceased, and mother to the said Herbert, John, and Gertrude, he did pay in London to the saide John Aston the somme of 25li., for one halfe yeare's rent of his the said John Aston's annuitie of 50li. a yeare. And that the said Lord Aston dyed in or about August, 1639.

The same day the said Herbert Aston and John Aston did voluntarily offer to take their corporall oaths, that betweene the death of the said Lord Aston their ffather, and the time of the sequestracon of the said Ladie Aston their mother (being about foure yeares), they did constantly receive from her the said Ladie Aston their severall annuities of 50li. a yeare. And the said Herbert Aston did then produce before us an ould book of accompts, which menconed the payment of 25li. to the said Herbert



Aston by the said Ladie Aston in 1639, and the like somes of 25li. at severall other tymes.

And the said Ladie Aston saith uppon her oath that since the death of the saide Lord Aston, her late husband, she hath everie yeare paid to her sonne Herbert Aston for his annuitie 50li. a yeare, and to her sonne John Aston 50li. a yeare, and to her daughter Gertrude Aston 40li. a yeare, and that the saide Lord Aston dyed the 12th day of August, 1639.

We doe further certifie that the said Herbert Aston, John Aston, and Gertrude Aston are recusants.

Gentlemen we are your very affectionate servants,

(Signed) THO. GENT,  
JOHN PIERCE.

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Stafford the 30th  
of Aprill, 1652.

Endorsed "For the Honble. Commissioners for  
Compounding at Haberdashers Hall, these  
pr sent ffor the service of the State."

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1652. Aug. 4.

To the Honble. Commissioners for Compounding,  
The humble Peticon of Herbert Aston, John Aston  
and Gertrude Aston, children to Walter Lord Aston  
deceased—

Sheweth

That yr Petrs. did formerly apeale to yr Honnrs  
to have their severall annuities allowed them,  
granted by their deceased father, and upon the

hearing of the saide apeale, you did order the said annuities to be allowed, in case the Ptrs. were not recusants, and thereupon the Commissioners for sequestracon in the counties of Stafford have certefied that your Petrs. are all recusants.

They therefore humbly pray your order to be said Commissioners for the countie of Stafford to allow them their thirds, according to Act of Parliament, being sequestered for recusants only.

And yr Petrs. shall pray.

(Signed)      HERBERT ASTON,  
JOHN ASTON,  
GERTRUDE ASTON.

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4th Aug., 1652.

Upon reading ye report in ye case, and ye late returne of ye Comrs. in answer to our's of ye 11th of March, Resolved that we do allow ye annuities and order ye Comrs. to allow a third to ye respective partyes, of which third parte of ye respective annuityes ye said Comrs. are to pay two partes, and ye Lady one part out of ye third allowed her.

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1652. Oct. 19th.

'To the Honble. Commissioners for Compound-  
ing,' The Humble peticon of William Wandle, gent.  
Sheweth—

That yr Petr having purchased of Herbert Aston of Colton in the county of Stafford gent, one annuitye or yearly rent charge of 80li., per annum

issueing out of the estate of Sir John Thimelby at Irnham in ye county of Lincolne, and now under sequestracon as ye said Sir John's estate.

Yr Hours the 29th of June last referred the stateing thereof to Mr. Brereton, who cannot proceed therein without a certificate from the Cmr. of Lincolne where the estate lyes.

Your Petr. therefore prayes that they may bee empowered to examine such witnesses as shall bee produced for prooffe of his sayd interest to the said rent charge, and the payment thereof to him, and alsoe that they may examine yr Petr. touching the same, and certefye ye same to yor Honors.

And yr Petr. shall pray, &c.

(Signed) WILLIAM WARDLE.

19th Oct. 1652.

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AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, WHITEHALL.

16 July, 1679 A.D.

*Present*—The Lord Archbp. of Canterbury.

The Lord Chancellor.

Earl of Sunderland.

Lord President Earl of Essex.

Lord Privy Seal Viscount Falconbridge.

Marquis of Worcester.

Viscount Halifax.

Earl of Bridgwater.

Lord Roberts.

Mr. Secretary Coventry.

Mr. Chancellor of ye Exchequer.

Upon reading this day at the board the humble petition of Sir Simon Degge, Knt., setting forth that his grandson and heir apparent, Simon Boughey Degge, being a tender infant of two years old, is in the tuition of his mother, who, being now married to Mr. Thomas Whitgreave of Moseley and become a Papist, brings up the petitioner's said grandson and heir in her religion, to his great trouble and grief, and therefore praying that his said grandson might be delivered to him to bee brought up and instructed in the Protestant religion. It was ordered by his Majestie in Council that a copy of the petition bee delivered to the said Mr. Whitgreave, who is hereby required to attend this board the first council day in October next, to show cause why the child should not be delivered upp to the petitioner as desired.

Signed JOHN NICHOLAS.

(Indorsed in the handwriting of Thomas Whitgreave, "Septbr. 20th being Saturday, I was served with the order.")

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"A note how they divide ye Lewn of ye Lord Aston, &c."

				s.	d.
Lord Aston	...	...	...	1	0
Mr. Chetwynd	...	...	...	1	2
Mr. Green	...	...	...	0	6
Mr. Launder	...	...	...	0	1
Thomas Taylor	...	...	...	0	1
Parchfield	...	...	...	0	1½

Humphrey Webb	...	...	...	0	1
William Collins	...	...	...	0	$0\frac{1}{2}$
Robert Taylor	...	...	...	0	$0\frac{1}{2}$
				3	$1\frac{1}{2}$

“ For year 1659 A.D. Copy of a Lown for poor assessed.”

	£	s.	d.
Mr. Chetwind, 3 lowns	1	8	8
Mr. Green and Mr. Saunders*	0	11	3
Mr. Aston	1	4	4
Thomas Kendrick and others, for Parchfield	0	2	3
Mr. Laundor	0	1	5
Humphrey Webb	0	1	5
Thomas Buttler	0	0	7
William Collins...	0	0	5
Thomas Taylor...	0	1	2
Robert Taylor	0	0	5
			£3 12 0

Copy of a Poor's rate, March 11, 1769.

	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Rev. Mr. Landor {glebe and tithes	16	8	0	17	0
{ Castle croft	0	4			
Mr. Webb, one moiety of tithe corn			0	13	4
Wm. Winnington, clerk's house and land			0	0	8

\* Then Rector of Colton.

		s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Mrs. Stych	His honour Clifford's Farm ...	14	2	0	16	10
	Mr. Emery's, late Butler's land	1	6			
	Lea Meadow ... ..	0	4			
	Cook's Trent Field ... ..	0	10			
Mr. Pegg	The old wood ... ..	17	6	1	9	5
	Mr. Anson's land ... ..	6	1			
	The Parchfields ... ..	1	4			
	late Woollams ... ..	2	5			
	late Mr. Pegg's land ... ..	1	8			
	Wright's Sentaff Field ... ..	0	5			
Mr. Marsh, Colton Mill, &c. ..	...			0	4	8
Mrs. Spencer, Mr. Whitgreave's Farm	...			0	15	0
Wm. Robinson, do. ... ..	...			0	1	10
Matthew Smith	late Dickenson's ... ..	3	8	0	4	7
	Admaston School land ...	0	11			
George Grime, Mr. Sneyd's land	...			0	0	4
Mrs. Tho. Sherratt	The Parks, and Sentaff			0	11	11
	Coppice ... ..	5	8			
	Blyth Ford ... ..	5	2			
	Wilde's ... ..	0	9			
	late Butler's ... ..	0	4			
John Rowley, his house and land	...			0	0	6
John Smith, His honour Clifford's farm	...			0	5	7
Tho. Hitchenson, do. ... ..	...			0	4	4
Thomas Wright	Mr. Pegg's Farm ... ..	11	0	0	12	9
	Mr. Whitgreave's Deggs					
	Leasow ... ..	0	6			
	Jeffrey Avarne's Long Metz	0	9			
James Fox	Mr. Biddulph's Farm ... ..	4	4	0	5	3
	late Woollams .. ..	0	11			
Samuel Toon, Mr. Holland's Farm	...			0	10	4
Mrs. George Holland	Sir Wm. Bagot's land	2	10	0	3	0
	ditto Shepherd's croft	0	2			
Thomas Harvey, Mr. Holland's farm	...			0	0	10
Mrs. Bakewell, Walkaden's ... ..	...			0	0	4



			s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
John Marston	{ Sir Wm. Bagot's	...	...	0	9	0	1	5
	{ late Woollams	...	...	0	8			
Francis Sherratt	{ Sir Wm. Bagot's	...	...	17	5	1	0	9
	{ Mr. Hodgson's	...	..	3	4			
William Flint, late Bromley's	...	...	...	...	...	0	7	6
Edward Wildey	{ Mr. Whitgreave's	...	...	1	4	0	1	9
	{ Parnell Meadow	...	...	0	5			
John Ailsbury (sen.), Rudgley School land	...	...	...	...	...	0	1	4
Jos. Taylor	{ Sir Wm. Bagot's	...	...	0	8	0	1	4
	{ Low's Ashen Croft	...	...	0	8			
John Hitchenson	{ Crabtree Flat	...	...	2	0	0	3	10
	{ Mr. Hodgson's Park side,	...	...	...	...			
	{ &c.	...	...	...	...			
	{ Sentaff Leasow	...	...	1	6			
John Gaunt	{ Low's Fowels	...	..	0	4	0	0	4
	The Low houses	...	...	...	...			
Wm. Harvey	{ Mr. Webb's Farm	...	...	8	8	0	9	2
	{ The Bigger Low	...	...	0	4			
	{ The Lesser Low	...	...	0	2			
Ric. Willescroft	{ Mr. Hodgson's Lawn	...	...	5	10	0	6	1
	{ late Philipps	...	...	0	3			
Mr. Parr, Sir Wm. Bagot's farm (Manor of Little Hay)	...	...	...	...	...	0	18	11
Mr. Jos Parr, his house and land	...	...	...	...	...	0	1	0
Widow Low	{ Mr. Whitgreave's land	...	...	0	4	0	0	7
	{ late Marston's house and land	...	...	0	3			
Wm. Knight, House and land	...	...	...	...	...	0	0	4
Jos. Knight, House and land	...	...	...	...	...	0	0	4
Sarah Jackson, Mr. Emery's house and land	...	...	...	...	...	0	0	10
Geo. Hayward (sen.)	{ His own house and land	1	7	0	4	3		
	{ late Woollum's croft	0	3					
	{ Webb's	...	0				9	
	{ Marshal's House	...	0				3	
	{ Bradbury's and	...	...				...	
	{ Richardson's	...	0				6	
Geo. Hayward (sen.)	{ late Salt's land	...	0	11	0	4	3	
		...	...	...				...

			s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Geo. Hayward (jun.)	{ Salt's and Tooth's houses ... ..	0	5		0	0	8
	{ Bardel's house ... ..	0	3				
Mr. Wright	{ Handley's house ... ..	0	2		0	1	1
	{ Ball's ... ..	0	5				
	{ Rushton's Sentaft leasow ... ..	0	6				
Geo. Hill, Jeffrey's Mare Park	... ..				0	0	2
Anthy. Rushton, late Burden's house	... ..				0	0	4
Widow Hunt, her house and land	... ..				0	0	3
John Yeates, The Raddle Pit house ( <i>i.e.</i> Hamley)	... ..				0	0	6
John Hayward, Mr. Webb's house and croft	... ..				0	0	4
Richard Radford, Mr. Webb's house and land	... ..				0	1	0
John Gomm, Esqre.	{ His house and land ... ..	9	7		0	10	4
	{ Sarah Hunt's house ... ..	0	4				
	{ <i>Town's end* house</i> ... ..	0	5				
Mr. Hodgson, Sir Wm. Bagot's house and land	... ..				0	0	5
Mr. Emery	{ his own house and land ... ..	2	0		0	5	2
	{ late Wilde's ... ..	1	8				
	{ late Butler's ... ..	0	4				
	{ Gosmother Reins ... ..	0	4				
	{ Bradshaw's land ... ..	0	10				
The Low house and land	... ..				0	0	3
Widow Till, her house and land	... ..				0	0	4
Francis Holt, late Webb's house, &c.	... ..				0	0	6
Mr. Kinson, Mr. Sneyd's land	... ..				0	4	2
Edw. Wotton, Sir Wm. Wolseley's land	... ..				0	0	3
John Sneyd, Esqre, ditto	... ..				0	0	11½
Robt. Smith, ditto	... ..				0	0	10½
Mr. Harper, The Parch Fields	... ..				0	2	0
Mr. Avarne, The Old Fall	... ..				0	2	2
Robert Landor, Esqre., his own land	... ..				0	7	7

\* Now mis-called Bellamour-end.

		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Mrs. Emery	Mr. Anson's Farm ...	2	0	7	2	11	11
	Sir Wm. Bagot's Hurst woods	0	5	6			
	her own house and land	0	5	0			
	Sentaft Leasow ...	0	0	10			
John Muxon, both parts of the Nettles		...			0	0	3
Wm. Yeates, Belcher's Martlin*		...			0	0	8
Mrs. Clarke	Mr. Webb's Farm ...	1	2	3	1	9	6
	Mr. Hodgson's ...	0	4	2			
	late Woollam's ...	0	3	1			
Total ...		...			£18	0	0

\* The Martlin was formerly divided lengthways into two fields.

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1730 A.D. Mr. Whitgreave's estate : —

Ye Great Moor...	...	16 acres.
Moor Meadow ...	...	3 acres.
Crow Moor Meadow ...	...	5 acres.
Ye Blind Pool, or Pool Yard ...		$\frac{3}{4}$ acre.
Ye Oatcroft ...	...	$1\frac{1}{2}$ acres.
Moor† Leate ...	...	$4\frac{3}{4}$ acres.
2. Hamley Leasows ...	...	14 acres.
Crab Tree Flats ...	...	6 acres.
Child's Oak ...	...	$4\frac{1}{4}$ acres.
All the Lounts ...	...	58 acres.
Ye Lawn Meadow ...	...	10 acres.
Wilderley Meadow ...	..	10 acres.
2. Stockings ...	...	about 3 acres.
2. Trent Fields ...	...	8 acres.
Ea-Meadow Gap ...	...	$1\frac{1}{2}$ acre.

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† Leate = "division."

Jacob's Croft	...	...	...	$\frac{1}{2}$ acre.
Hamley Stones Meadow	...	...	...	$1\frac{1}{4}$ acre.
Pryor's Meadow	...	...	...	1 acre.
Mr. Pegg's Longmetts	and			
Moseley's Longmetts*	...	...	...	12 acres.
Low's Fowells	..	...	...	7 acres.
Joyce Marson's Croft	...	...	...	$\frac{3}{4}$ acre.
Windmill Field Leasowg	...	...	...	$4\frac{1}{2}$ acres.
Bradshaws Ashen Croft	...	...	...	6 acres.
Pegg's Mill-ditch	...	...	...	3 acres.
About 3 acres in 2 Hamley Fields				
Wilderley Hall...	..	...	...	1 acre.
And about one day's work at Morton Lane				
End.				

1730 A.D.

JOHN TAYLOR,

T. WHITGREAVE.

Four pieces of land called Marshea Flatts, rented by John Sherratt from Sir Walter Bagott.

From time to time certain exchanges have been effected in the glebe lands, as the following account, taken from a terrier dated 1726 A.D., if compared with their present situation, will plainly show. For convenience sake the various small pieces would be

\* L-Metz = *Long Enclosure*, from Metan—to measure, probably.

† Leasow, from Læs = a pasture.

put together, so far as was found practicable when, those fields were first inclosed :—

Terrier of 1726.

1. Rectory, outbuildings and gardens, &c., about  $1\frac{1}{4}$  acres.

2. “ Bishton Leasow,”  $1\frac{1}{4}$  acres.

3. “ Ludget,”  $9\frac{1}{2}$  acres. (This Mr. Seaton exchanged with Mr. Horsfall for “ The Holms,” to their mutual benefit.)\*

4. “ The Hollow Dale,” about 4 acres.

5. “ New,” or “ Little Intack,” about  $2\frac{3}{4}$  acres.

6. “ Further,” or “ Bigger, Intack,” about 5 acres.

7. “ Hamley Stones ” meadow, or ‘ The Moors,’ about 8 acres.

8. A piece in the middle of “ Hamley Leasow,” about  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre.

9. A piece in “ Hamley Field,” about  $\frac{1}{4}$  acre.

10. Four butts in “ Sentaff Field,” about  $\frac{1}{4}$  acre.

11. A piece of a butt also in “ Sentaff Field,” about 29 perches.

12. “ Tinkers Flat,” in “ Sentaff Field,” about  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre.

13. “ Middle Flat,” in “ Sentaff Field,” about  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre.

14. “ Sentaff Leasow,” about 2 acres.

15. Two acres in a common meadow called “ Sleetings.”

16. Another acre also in the same “ Sleetings.”

17. An acre abutting on the Trent in a common

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\* Tithe Map. Adjoining lodge on Bishton-road.

meadow, called "Hay Meadow," or "Ea-meadow," or "Ey-meadow."

18. A chequer piece also in the same, equal to about half-an-acre.

19. A shoulder piece also in the same, equal to about half-an-acre.

20. A small piece, .8 yards square, in "Crofts Leasow."

21. "Longmets," about four acres.

Four acres of land were allotted to Mr. Landor, then rector, out of the "Marsh," adjoining the "Castle Croft," in exchange for the tithes on the inclosed lands which were surrendered by him, as previously pointed out.

The "Castle Croft was bought from Mr. Power, and added to the glebe in exchange for Bishton Leasow. The deed is in the possession of the patron.

Vinson's "Hollow Dale," about 3 acres, was left for ever to the rector of Colton, for payment of a yearly rent of £2 to the school, and £1 for the Good Friday dole. (It was bought from Vinson by Mr. Taylor.)

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The following letters taken from the "Domestic Series of State Papers," and from the "Tixall Collection," were written either to or from Colton Hall and Bellamore. They contain so much information concerning the Aston family, then the Lords of the Manor, that no account



of Colton could be considered complete without them.

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State Papers: Domestic Series, B.M.

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Sir Walter Aston to Secretary Conway.

*Colton*, July 24th, 1627 A.D.

Having spent many years in the king's service, and intending, being now without employment, to return and settle to a country life as soon as His Majesty's bounty should enable him to live anywhere, it would have been a great comfort to him if the king had been pleased to honour his ancient house of Tixall; but, since he is otherwise resolved, he submits to his pleasure, and accepts his grace and goodness in the kind in which it is offered. Is much comforted to hear of the constant resolution to repair his estate. His debts were caused by his employments, and sale of lands towards the discharge thereof. The king's promise of £14,000 in two years expires on July 20th next.

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Sir Walter Aston to Secretary Conway.

*Colton*, Septbr. 18, 1627.

The king [*i.e.* Charles I.] having during his [Sir W. Aston's] employment in Spain being a suitor to his father [King James] to make Sir Walter an English Baron, he hoped to have received that mark of his favour when it was in his power to confer it on him. When the king resolved to dispose of

him in another way he submitted ; and His Majesty having now expressed his desire that he should purchase land in Scotland, he will do so out of his promised bounty. Relates his course of employment on the recommendation of the Duke [Buckingham]. He spent four parts of five of his estates in that service, and has now been for three years altogether neglected. The king had promised on July 20, 1626, to bestow on him £14,000 in two years. Begg that he and his house, after many descents, may not utterly perish by the king's service, and earnestly solicits the assistance of Lord Conway.

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1627. October 20.

Lord Conway to Attorney-General Heath.

To prepare a bill for making Sir Walter Aston  
 " Baron of Forfar, in Scotland."

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Letter from the 1st Lord Aston to Catherine Thimelby  
 on her marriage to his second son Herbert Aston.

Good Dawter,

You have sett so great a valew of estimation upon my good affections to you and your husband, that I am in payn and ashamed I cannot make it good with such reall actions of advantage unto you as you deserve. I can not promise you success, for I am not master of it ; but you may rest confident my care and uttermost endeavor shall not be wanting. You come into a family, although united in trew

affection one unto another, yet devided in the condition of our fortune ; my wife in one place, my son Aston in another, and I in a third ; and in the worst a poore suter at court, with a painfull infermitie for my companion. This division I am now more sensible of by what you must suffer in it. For although we might do something handsomelie together, it cannot be so in this separation and division of our abode. Your goodness, I hope, will understand things aright, and give yourself those easies which are wished unto you in a more plentiful manner. With my affectionat respects I rest, your loving father to serve you

WA. ASTON.

Mulb. Gard. ye 9th of Xber, 1638.

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From Katherine Aston to her husband Herbert Aston, written as it seems from Bellamore.

Deare Mr. Aston,

Since you comaunded it, I can with les difficulty talke of myself though now the last subject of my thoughts, and tell you I find my self almost cur'd of the infermetye you apprehended most, though your going caused a far greater. I canot absolutely say, the doctor did it, till my continuing well warrant that, because you know I have many times bin well for a day or two, and then againe as ill ; but being presently so after folowing his prescriptions, gives me some hope I shall continue so. This I should not tell you if I feared it would prolong your

absence, that causes a sofering so beyond sickness poure: be not angry I say this, unless you will be I rite at all. For my lines to you and the expression of my thoughts, are vowd to be unseparable, and thoe I do not speak them fully, your perfect love will reade out of my character such a one which the les knowing could not perceave by them. Thus love for love will supply all other wants as you doe for mee in this, and a thousand other ways. What can I restore but a hart so onely yours 'tis vowed to know no joy but what you bring, nor no sorrow but what is yours, which I hope this absence is since it takes so great hould there; indeede, I know nothing more impossible, than that I could live long without you, who onely love life for you. How esely else could I breake off all tyes of my love to it or the world, did not you so forcibly make me dote on both; which you nede have no scruple on, since your merets did it, 'tis my fault if I have converted them to an ill use; besides. I would give you some of my hope, that that daily example which I shall se in you of good, shall so wholly poses my love, I shall so far folow it to love it for itself; since goodness and you being so undeviduall, take my love to make the perfect number 3, as three perfecter the world not beares than your self, your goodness and the love of

Your hapy wife and servant,

KATHERIN ASTON.

My humblest duty to my Lord,

Worlds would I leve were I one of them to be

secured of your constant preference. Doe so much as send Mr. Lovet that lives over against St. Dunston Church, twelve shillings that I ought him for seting my diomond claspe. I am in such feare something will still defer your coming downe. I cannot get a minute fre, but now there gon to bowls. My brother Persall, and my sister, are here, but goe of tewsdays to Tixall, to expect my Lady Mary's good houre of delivery. My sweet sister Fowler, I here, comes to-morrow, but when I shall se her I know not. Oh! the happiness of talking to her, who so well will fele my mesery in your absence.

"Since all that can be given is no delight,  
To that you give, and I find in your sight."

Twang, but trew. My brother Persall remembers him to you much. To think of a fortnight before I se you is unsoferable.

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From Katherine Aston to her husband.

Deare Mr. Aston,

In my last, I tould you the feares I was in that I should have receav'd no leter from you. This must tell you that upon Wensday I receav'd one from you, which was write upon your first coming to towne. 'Twas without date, but so long and kind, it might have made me a leter for every one of those days I sofered so much by the want of it; 'tis well you indevor to restore those joys you have destroyed in me by this crewell absence, for nothing but your desire to have me mery could make me desire to be so when you are absent; therefore I may tell you I

am as much so as both our desires of it can make me, but nothing can effect it but your presence. I confess you have done as much as can be in promising a constant continuance of it, when this mesurable probation of love is expired ; but oh ! how long my lord of Holland may kepe you, undoes all my comforts. To-morrow I looke to heare from you some sartainty when I may expect you : indede, I am not able to think of longer. than you imagin'd it would be when we parted, and your expressions how much you sofer by it, though an unspekable hapines, proves now the increase of my sofring, espetially where you say I was accesary to it by thinking it fit. I am resolved to have no rome for anything but love hereafter, since that alone can make so compleatly hapy, and all without it canot give the least : this sofring, this absence, must teach me, and lerning perched by unhappiness can never be forgot so much to fall into the same errors againe ; therefore, never believe I shall ere consent to part with you againe, who, by your sight, and dearest conversation, have the attainment of all my wishes, who am nothing,

But your most affectionate lover,  
and humblest servant,

KATHERIN ASTON.

My humble servis to my lady Mury, and my sister Gertrude, I had presented it myself to them, but that your saying nothing of them, made me unsartaine whether they were in towne or not. Consider not the foolishness of this letter, but think



my thoughts: those cannot displease you. I have had some fits of daseling in my eys since I saw you; but they shall be perfect well when you give them the perfect happiness of your sight. My sister Fowler, at St. Thomas, writ me word she was extremely ill of a cold, and had kept her chamber a weeke, but that it began to leave her, she did extremly deplore my misfortune in this jorney. Oh! the sad thoughts I have sometimes about it, by feare I shall never be so hapy againe. I doe sofer more and more every day. Consider me as I love you.

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From Katherine Aston to her husband.

Dear Mr. Aston,

I desire not to grow leane by my fasting from your deare company so long. Indeed, I indure it just as you could have me, and am feasted with thoughts you and my sister Fowler are talking of me with love; therefore do soe still, and I will promis you I will not surfit of the joy, since the greatest you have given me hath bin so far from my death, they have given me life: for I am confident I had not lived till now without them; but I know you think it foolish to tell you what you know, and you are likely to know your own workes: but I beleve they apeare les to you than they are knowne by me. But being you would have me leave this, I must, and tell you Jack is very well and mery, though he slept but little last night; but I was never wakned with him but ownce. Therefore be not angry I should have what I love, him so nere

me ; nothing but so dere a part of you as him with me : and your injoying another in my loved sister Fowler could make me thus well indure your absence, which I find so crewell to me in itselſe, as all I have to wish is we may not, whilst we live, be longer parted. Were I ſecure of this, I might ſafely ſware none knows hapineſs ſo much as your love and preſence makes

YOUR KATHERIN ASTON.

If you love me, ſpeke to Mr. Daniel that he will not let my ſiſter Fowler faſt : tell him ther's four lives concerned in it, and one of them is his moſt trew honored

K. A.

Letter to Sir Wm. Persall of Canwell, the husband  
of her ſiſter-in-law Frances Aston.

My Deare Brother,—

In bidding me farewell you give me what the word implys, much well being, in yr kindneſs at parting, by ſaying you carry me with you, or I poſes ſo much part in your thoughts. Yet were it much my ſorow if yr words were as trew as kind, and that that were yr onely comfort in this abſence. I could doe what you think difficult in the philoſopher, banish the joys of ſence, if diſtances from thoſe we love could admit the ſame delightful ſatisfactions to our reaſon or diſcorſe. I think, as you, that ſometimes ſecond thoughts are beſt put in practiſe, yet is there danger conſtantly to think ſo, for ſo might we miſ practiſing good inſpirations our firſt thoughts ſuget, and by that neglect deſervedly looſe the hapineſs

of a second good thought. But had you now stayd for a second thought you would not think them ill natured lovers that can be plesd with their owne resolutions, because where we resolve well we may not only rong ourselves, but others, not to be constant to it; nor nede we feare that homebred love you speak of to be without care and pation; for in even our perfectest resolves, we shall find both in humaine life; and twas a wise providence that made it so. For if Heaven be so little sought for, or thought of, in this condition, how litle had it bin if we had bin exempted from them. Nor can yr kind words brede a vanitye in me to beleve my absence can be for any time the loss of any joy to yr soule or sense, you having reason enough to know, and I to se, I meret neither; tis onely I may feare, a los in yr kind thoughts, who had nothing to conserne them by, but that fre goodnes that will shew you many more worthy subjects to bestow them on. I think none are to be bland for admiring, as you express, the lock and key of the cabinet nature hath for the soule, since many times tis worth it: but that our thoughts should receave a satisfaction there without loking within, I think is blame worthy (to give the best poure of our soule the will for outward goods). But sure you mistook the word when you say, naturally we cannot love the best qualitys in a deformed creature; sensually you ment; but nature, if not corrupted, leades to all reason, that, to all love where merited; tis trew we may like the exactest peice of nature where ill qualityes inhabit,

but love is justly forbidden there as so above what's there dew; for I believe reason the onely pilot of good love, and yet it admits of pation as I understand it. Our Saviour and many of His great saints exprest it themselves; for the feling of pation is no ill, but the imoderation in it. It seemes by your owne argument that reason and sence are remote; that a spiret should dye in a sensitive creature, and be immortall in a rational one. But I canot deside why God gives Heavin to fooles and idiots who seme as sensitive as they; tis inough to shew tis best when he doth it who is best and most knowing of what he doth. T'may be, tis the reward of some vertue in there parents; for if we be punishd to the third and fourth generations for our parents ofences, mercy can rech forther in rewards. I canot think it too much presumption to say we love God since tis the best gift we have the best poure of our soule. The feare, adoration, and reverence must nedes prosede from a love of God. He authorises this when he tould St. Mary Magdalin many sins were forgiven her because she loved much. Nor canot you upon second thoughts but alow religious a meret far above what we can sofer since knowledge and truth itselfe hath given them the preheminance above our state of life. At their entrance they renounced all deare to them; and therefore 'twas thought fit, by justice and goodness itselfe they should poses hundred-fould. We should think ourselves t'were unfit, had we a poure, they should ever want anything that had given us all: how can they

mis it then from God, who rewards a cup of cold water given for his sake : thus happy tis to love Him who rewards our gift, so much of which was his owne, by so many and just titles before. You may approve the pilot that governs His ship in a trobled storme, but you may say he is wiser who doubts himselfe so much never to come there. I believe short diet, want of slepe, coarse linen, and yr troubles of mind may have much outgone those sofrings ; but they have a will to be mortified in all for God ; and I feare (by my selfe I give this judgment) you have a desire to be without them. I beleve with you, they enjoy a calme and peace the world canot give, a heaven on earth ; but I believe too they have deserved it better. For if, as you say, to be lessend in one's enjoyments be the greatest paine, to find joys in all these willing mortefecations must needs be the greatest pleasure. Nor are we disallowed to love handsome ceatures, provided the intencion be good ; for nothing is a right object for love but goodnes. But I see in that question you were afrayed of transgressing the bounds of [good love] Belamore, which you so kindly wish extended to Canwell ; and I and Mr. Aston believe you and my sister give us large possessions in yr good will to us : that which we more justly valew than those possessions you wished us. You hapyly resolve the contemplative and sufring life to fear God, but let love to Him first make you doe so ; for love always includes feare, but not always feare love ; therefore to love all the world resembles God best. That you

and my sister shall ever have my harteest wishes of all of joys to you both, you canot dowl, who have so much obliged Mr. Aston and me.

Yr most affectionate servant,

KATHERIN ASTON.

[NOTE.]—At the bottom of this letter Mr. Clifford found pinned with some rusty pins a small bit of paper, with these words: “I hope you thought upon me of St. Simon and St. Jude’s Day, the sixteenth yeare of the happiest married state can admit, for so long have I bin so.”

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From Winifred Thimelby to her sister Mrs. Herbert Aston.

Dearest, Dearest Sister,

Were it posible to be angry with you, these lins wod chide yr kind folly, in desiring my picture: for besides the idle expence, ’twas my advantage to be drawn by that neate pencil of yr love; wch I am sure enough would flatter me in every kind. But I must confes, since you pretend to likeness, you may with more justice aske, then I deny, another painter; therefore I must yealde, and the truth is I can deny you nothing. As for the present, we are frighted with some feares of new troubles with you (written circa 1656, during Cromwell’s protectorate) if the tempest blow over you may expect to see me this sommer. But when, O when shall I see you (*i.e.*, here, at Louvaine). It is my dayly comfort to remember how fast we approach each other, and



that every moment dispatches some part of the way: this makes me content with present absence, nay, even love it. Forgive the sound of that last word, and consider the sense of it. For I pretend not to a good expression, but clame yr beleefe I meane as well, as truest love can teach; and really, sister, you cannot imagine how much the memory of you gives increase of very solid joyes. For when I looke upon the condition I might have expected, or hoped for in the world, me thinks I am so sorry 'twas noe better, noe greater, that I might have left, and contained something worthy my pretensions. But when I cast my eyes upon the tresures of my loved friends, and, in perticuler, vr sweetest selfe, I grow hugely comforted, because I'll not allow the world could give me better. I mean kinder, dearer. Therefore you must give me leave to love our separation, because it helps to secure an eternall, mutuall, injoying—you must be sure to present my humblest and most affectionate service to my Lady Wessen. 'Tis really my cross I never deserve her sister's kindnes; they also have a brother here who is as kind as good. If you knew him you would know this, a very great expression: "The best is, they are such noble friends; tis no paine to be obliged." Say all you can of kindnes to my brother Aston (Herbert Aston). My hart will be sure to make it good. Is he as willing to give me a child as you? if so, I shall have very great hopes. Be sure if I dye before you can compasse it, cheange not yr resolution: the child will loose noe happines

by want of me. I forgot to tell you, I shewed yr letter to my Lady Mary, who sweetly blusht at that conserved herselfe. Pleased with yr pretty kind complaint: yet bids me tell you, the fault was all yr owne, you were noe more acquainted, for she did covet it, but could not fasten on you, you were so extremely silent, wch I must confess she is not in yr praises. But, by her discourses, adds to that sea wch flowes, but never yet knew ebbe. I would be understood, the *love* of your most affectionate sister,

W. T.

I have not a jot of my sister's haire: mine is too short to do anything with; but take it as it is. The gray hairees you will account my sisters, for she made them so.

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“ Good loves lre to Mrs. Berrington ”

(*i.e.*, Katherin Aston's.)

Sweet Mrs. Berrington,—

Tho I have this three weekes kept my chambre and run over a multitude of diseases, just as you may remember I used to doe every spring, and fall, having lost all sleepe and stomach; yet tis God's will, though so unprofitable a servant to Him, that I should have the prairs of so many affectionate friends joyned for my recovery. I believe I am now past danger: tis only one of his deare regaloos to unfasten me from creatures; to help me see how nothing I am with all their loving helps without him: yet this remembrance he finds necessary to give me twice a year. The world, I confes, I never

lovd, but some frends, perhaps, too much. Indeed, in my sickness, twas much my pain not to have heard from you soe long, who I soe faithfully and dayly wish all true joys to, and should with much joy embrace the occasion that would make me instrumentall to give you any comfort, tho I feare I am of late mistaken by you; but if you will show me any way I can give you comfort, if I doe it not then leave to believe me,

Your most truly affectionate frend,

KATHERIN ASTON.

By all you love let me heare quickly from you: my head and eyes are very weake yet. Pray be constant in praying for me, who noe day forget you, nor never will: would for both our sakes you could find them more powerfull.

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From Mrs. Winefrid Thimelby, Abbess of the  
Convent of English Nuns at Louvain, in Flanders,  
to Mrs. Katherine Aston, at Bellamore.

Dearest, Dearest Sister,—

Why, after so long a patience, will you mix my joy with such distast, to find you shuld the least suspect a change of hart in me, because you heare not from me. I may as well complayne, sence tis a whole yeare sence I receaved a line from you, and then I presently answered it to stopp yr kynd folly (give me leave to call it so), which desyred to have my picture drawen. Take notis, I was the last that writ: for it was then you mentioned so many perticulers of your new house (Bellamore), all which

I answered: but it is not the first of mine which hath miscarried, for really, I have never mised any oportunitie which gave any hopes of aryving you. So carfull selfe love made me, to soe my seede, in hope to reape the pleasing fruit of your answers. But, when they fayled, I never did admitt a thought your love did so. Sweet sister, doe the same by mee, who willingly confesse, you goe before me, in all except a constant love: but ther, I'le give no place. Know therefor, though you shuld never hear from me (which yet shall never be when I can helpe it), I am as dayly mindful of you, my brother Aston, and yours, as of myselfe. Really, I tell you this with as much truth as can be. It is not possible for me to forgett you one day, so much I am, and cannot chuse but bee,

Your most affectionat Sister.

WINEFRID.

I enjoy my health, methinkes, but too well; since itt delayes my meeting with my sister Franck [Frances Aston, 2nd wife of Sir Wm. Persall, his first wife was sister to Mrs. Winefrid Thimelby]. However, know, I am won (one) of the hapiest persons living; though still methinks I should be hapior diing. Sweet sister, when you rite to me. allways give notis of how my lady Aston dus. Her sister, my Lady Mary Weston, desyres it of you; and really she dus so hugelly oblige me with continuall kyndnis I shall be mitty glad to serve her in any kind. Her chambers are almost finished, and we hugley taken with her sweet conversation.

Why did you not rite me some perticulers of your

sweet children. How dus my pore Keat with the ricketts? Remember I must have won (one). Oh, tell me what hopes. . . . I never had line from brother Ned (Edward Thimelby, the poet,) sence he leaft you, but heard he intended to winter hear, if brother Thimelby give leave, to whom I rite to beg that comfort; but hear no answer. . . . I think Dick is dead, at least to me. But I cannot say, *requiescat in pace*. . . . Let's always rite when we can, and have patience when we cannot, so shall we be more hapy when we meet whonce agen. . . . Know certeynly my hart can never change to you. You have many frinds who will not lett me seal my letter without encloasing ther kyndest love.

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Letter from Winefrid, the Abbess, to Herbert Aston,  
at Bellamore, shortly after Mrs. K. Aston's death.  
Hond. Dear Brother,—

Though you have pleased so soone to dry my tears, yet you have fill'd my hart with other greafe to find myselfe so deeply in your debte, both in regarde of my deare sister and myselfe, without hope of ever paying you till harts shall be revealed. But then, I am certaine, all which you layd out upon me will appeare dischargd upon love's score: for ther I dewly paye. I know not what to say concerning my picture. Twas as far from my thoughts as from reason to imagin you shud desyre it now: but since you are so strangeley kynd, methinks I should be as strangeley coye, if I should not afford my sister's picture that advantage it will gaine by myne; there-

fore I shall not fayle to send it. [H. Aston had written to ask for her picture to hang it by his wife's, it seems.] I suffer much with you concerning yr great charge. I have as many hopes as you have cares: tis onely your burthen, under which I growne, as fearing you may fainte. For them I rest secure, so long as God preserves them such a father; for which I dayly pray. Therefore I silence all my owne repining thoughts, and tune them to comfort, by hope you will believe this great, though hidden truth, that I inheritt all my sister's dearly dere respects to you, and love of your sweet little ones.

Your most affectionat,

though unworthy sister,

WIN. THIM.

I fear to suffer in yr thoughts, as one to(o) much ineroaching upon goodness, whylist I beg you will please, at yr best leysure, to send that loved relation of my sister's death, my brother Harry so much joys to have. Forgive me, tis a bold request.

NOTE.—This refers to an account of the last week of his wife's life, written by Herbert Aston, entitled, "A perticuler accompt of ye most remarkable passages at ye happy end of Mrs. Ca. Aston, and wt past 7 dayes before, with some reflections on ye vertues and suffrings of her precedent life."

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A particular accompt of ye most remarkable passages at ye happy end of Mrs. Ca. Aston, and what passed 7 days before, with some reflection on ye virtues and suffrings of her precedent life:



[The following account was written by Herbert Aston, shortly after his wife's death, which took place at Bellamore.]

I intende not hereby to give you a character of that blessed soule now in heaven, whilst she lived here on earth, that being already performed, nor relate to you in perticular ye practice and vertues of her meritorious life: should I enlarge myself therein according to my knowledge, and as my affection would fayne leade me, should I set forth to her merrit, what a firm fayth, and right Christian assurance she had in God in all occurreneyes, yt were absolutely improbable and dispayring to human sence: wt a perpetual ardency of affection to God, and to every creature of ys world, as a reflex of His goodness, with a constant contempt of ys world, and everything in it; wt an invincible patience, how indefatigable a devotion, how profound a humility, how sweet an affability; what a knowing innocency, how stupendious and incredible a modesty and chastity: in fine how violent an aversion to all yt was ill, and how settled and established a fixture to all that was good, I should then write a large treatise, instead of this short memento, I now only intende to God's glory, ye honour of her memory and ye benefit of my owne. Let it then suffice in generall to tell you, yt she had alwayes a most intent advertency, and right understanding of her being but a pilgrim in ys transitory world, with so perfect an obedience and adherency to our Saviour's advice to us, in yt condition, of having

our loynes girt, and our lights burning, as much as to say, promptitude in ye exercise of charity, and fervency in ye act of love, yt her whole life served for nothing else but ye joy'd practice of ye one, and in its own willing consumption to maintayne ye other: and in a word to sume up all: if you will believe ye most observant astrologer of the motions and beautyes of ys celestiall minde, it was a serene Heaven full of stars all replenish't with vertues and charity and chastity, ye two great luminaryes there. Yet I cannot but perticularise some of her sufferings in this life, they were so extraordinary and so remarkable, as likewise God's perticular providence and favours to her, when He came at last to take more ample possession of what had been alwayes so much His: such was his infinite goodness to her, and us, that before he sealed up this jewell for himself (indeed unfit for any other object) He made her happiness as notorious, as her afflictions had beene; and over-measured our former justly sensible sorrowes for her, with everlasting comforts; wch, that we may the better deserve, let us look back into her life, and wee shall see how she purchast them. She took up her cross and followed Christ, even in her childhood, I believe, before she was ten years old, and never layd it downe, but rather held it fast in her loving embraces, till Christ puld her from it to himselfe in the 40th yeare of her age, on the ninth of July. 1658. When he gave her possession of those joyes she all her life time had sighed after; for in the whole 30 yeares mentioned, there past few

days, I believe none, wherein she suffered not some considerable sickness, or pain; few monthes that she had not a weeke at least of extremity; and twice a yeare of late, spring and fall, she had fitts that kept her for the most part of a month in bed, without ease or sleepe, for 7 or 8 days together; which she indured with such tranquillity of mind, and edification of her friends and servants present, as thereafter appeared little hope in them she could recover. At length sicknesse and paine grewe so habitual with her, or rather the grace of God, by the meritt she made by them, that every fitt (though a terror and a just sadness to all her assistants,) seemed rather to her (such was her patience, and the powerfull effects of grace in her) a recreation and joy, so would she smile on those by her, and by cheerfull expressions, as well manifest her owne comforts, as deverte and moderate their just griefs for her. Every yeare she improved her merits, as God Almighty encreased her sufferings, and the last was allmost nothing els, but an incessant martyrdom, an abstracted devotion, she being in a manner as wholly dead to all things in this world, as she is now; even her greatest affections formerly, and dearest relations and tyes to it, scarce enjoyed a thought from her, nor could procure more of her, upon never so much an inforced endearment, then a pittifull smile, or some short kind word; so constant a fixure of mind she had, whether, with an assurid knowledge and secret joy she was making more hast, than her sweet nature weh could never indure

to impart any thing but joyes, would permitt her to declare to any. It is true, she said often she could not live, but I never took it for serious she did it with that mirth in her countenance, such love in her lookes, and such kindness in her behaviour. yet as I have since reflected, she joyned therewith so sad and silente sighs, as if she had remorse she had sayd so much, yet was sorry she durst say no more. About 7 weekes before her exchange of these miseryes for that crowne she had so good a title to, a dry cough, weh began some 6 weeks before that; increast to that violent extremity, yt, being great with child too, and neare her time, it gave her intollerable and constant paynes, with such a shortness of breath, that she never removed from one room to another but she indured great torment, and seemed even to labour for life, for want of breath, weh she would be about a quarter of an houre recovering, and as long ere her paines would remove; yet would she seldome omitt (though she payd so dearly for it) to goe dayly through four or five roomes, to pay those usuall respects was due from her to those she liv'd with; nor was ever able for the last 6 weekes, by reason of her cough, to ly doune in bed, but was faine to be sett up right with pillows, yet even so she coughed without intermission, from the time she went to bed, weh was about 9 of the clock every night, till 3 or 4 in the morning; then quite tyred out she would slipp doune a little, and sleepe most of the morning by fitts, weh gave her strength to indure the next day. Thus she past 5

of the weekes, and would permitt no body to sitt up with her, nor above twice or thrice call any body up, but would endure them to her selfe, I am confident, because she would conceale how she past them; but as much against her will, as unknowne to her, I was a witness to some of them; for lying by her some nights, she would be strangely quiett, till she thought me asleepe, wch I many times counterfitted houres together, then woulde she breake forth into such fervent aspirations, into such sweet and fervent acts of charity, and assurance of God's goodness, so perfect resignation to his holy will, that I was not more sad in the sense I had of her suffering condition, then transported to heare so heavenly a piety. Though those nights I was with her, I believe I heard not the 20th part of what she said distinctly, she speaking almost allways to herself softly, of wch I heard but like a whisper of words. of wch I understood not: one saying that she used and often repeated was, 'Thy will be done in me and mine ever ever.' Then would she say a pater-noster and Ave Mary with extraordinary feelings and devotion, and allwayes when she came to 'fiat voluntas tua,' she would still add 'fiat, fiat.' Another she as often used was, 'Thou knowest my God I am only thine, lett all mine be ever so;' and that of St. Aug. as I take it, 'He loves Thee little, that loves any thing together with Thee that he loves not for the love of Thee.'

Now it was the beginning of July, and just at this time, God who disposeth all things sweetly,



beginning to show his perticular providence and love to her, who had practised that perfect conformity to Him, in so lovingly and faithfully following Him in the thorny way of the cross, had now pleased to so order it, that she had meanes to gain a plenary indulgence, at wch she shewd much joy, and intreated me that I would take care as soon as possible that she might have the benefitt of it she most needed. How little did I believe this, yet how willing was I to comply ever with any desire of her's and so tould her that I would that day, wch was the 2nd of July, bestow ye almes for her, and that night I would ly by her that I might be sure to be stirring by times, and be in the morning assistant to her; that so she might receave seasonably all that was wanting to her satisfaction. See another manifest of God's gracious indulgence to her. She who had not for many weekes taken any sleepe or rest till morning, by reason of her continuall cough, that night, as soone as the roome was quiett, and I come to bed, I sayd to her, 'You must be sure to sleepe to-night. how else shall I ever be able to consent to call you up in the morning, just when you rise, and must needs take yr rest;' and indeed this consideration was no small difficulty and trouble to me, all the precedent day. But God highly rewarded my due condescendency herein; for she no sooner returned me 'I will be sure to do so,' but He made good her word, for she fell fast asleep, it being much about ten of the clock. I know not I ever in my life felt more joy then now, when I heard eleven and twelve



strike before she waked: about a quarter after she spoke to me, saying, 'did you ever see the like Mr. Aston; how I have slept, and I am much better then I have been a long time.' About one she fell asleep againe. and so slept by fits till 4, wch was the time appoynted. I then got up and assisted to have all made ready for her, whilst she prepared herselfe. Before we despatched all, and she receaved the full satisfaction of all her desires, with no little joy to me, to see her body pertake so truly in the comforts of her mind, for ther was a visible and sensible amendment of her every way, and a great truce from her usuall paines. In this hopeful condition I left her, and went abroad about my usuall occasions leaving her with great hopes she would gitt more sleepe; but about halfe an houre after I was gone, she on a sudden had such pains as she plainly and truely apprehended to be labour. She instantly desired I should be sent for. I came to her againe just as the clocke struck seaven, and I found her in the same pleasant and cheerfull manner she used to begin her other child births: When the midwife and most about her did in a manner despaire she could have breath and strength; just one quarter after 8, she was delivered of a healthfull well-liking child, by the help of Him, who gratusly knew to proportion her labour to her strength. When she was layd in her bed she remayned for the space of half an houre much out of breath, but from the first instant was able to lye along, with little or no trouble of her cough. That night she had many

fine sleepes, and the next night slept most part of it, and so continued the 4 and 5 in all respects as ever she used to be ; but the first night, being Thursday, she mist her sleepe and in the morning when I came to her. I found her somewhat feaverish, and she continued all day a little distempered and restless ; that Friday night she gott a little sleepe, but yet on Saturday was much distempered with heate and began to return to her short breathing. This shooke me a little, but far, God knowes, from apprehending how nere I was to the loss of that inestimable soule, for weh all the joyes of ten thousand such worlds as this, cannot make me the least reparation. That Saturday night, unless a little at the beginning, she slept none at all. I came to her about 3 in the morning, and found her in a high feaver, and very short breatht. I dispatcht one then straight for a doctour, returned to her, and dismissed he, watcher, and told her I was come to sitt by her, she must needes try to sleepe ; she answered with these words, ‘indeede there is no hope of it, pray be not troubled at it, I am sure now I shall dy, why should you grieve ? I leave you ten for one, and Con will quickly be a huswife, weh I never was. You will be sure to be kind to all the children ; but espetially, I pray you to Jacke, whose sad apprehensive nature requires most kindness : be sure you make them all good, and doe you and they alewayes as you ought ; pray see that poore Frank never want, and be sure to be allwayes kind to nurse Hansaker ; lett Jacke if you please have my wedding ring ; and if you

think fitt, give some of our best friends that best loved us something to remember me by ; my shortness of breath is a great trouble to me, that I cannot say more to you, and by reason thereof I can not be able to speake to those that are about me, and will come to me, as I would, but you must excuse it, and for your owne part think and imagine what I would say to you, wch is all that can be sayd.' 'Though I had often sadly interrupted her in this discourse, yet I perceaved the saying so much had been very painfull to her. I intreated her therefore to lye still, and not to trouble herself and me, about that which was so improbable, being she was not the least sick; and indeed the having seene her so often in so much greater extreamity, had created confidence in me, that though the manner of her discourse feared me deeply, yet I had no beleefe of the sad sequell, and so exprest to her : she then went on, yet smiling, and in a jesting manner, 'yes, Mr. Aston, I must dy, because you and everybody, pray'd for my safe bringing a bed, but thought not of me afterwards.' I assured her of the contrary as for my owne part, and doubted not the like of others ; and replied to her, 'since I see so much apprehension in your selfe, of what no onè els sees reason, if you love me will you now joyne yr prayers with mine that you may recover and outlive this fitt :' she answered, ' I doe desire, if it please God, that I may still live, since I see it would so much please you ; but indeed I cannot pray for it, and verily I ought not ;' though I urged this againe, I could by no meanes

alter her herein. This repulse, though managed with all the sweetness and kindness possible by her, was the first apprehension that strooke me of her leaving me ; for she in all her whole life time had never denyed me anything, though never so unreasonable and averse to her nature, or inclination ; unjust, I thank God, I durst never aske, nor could I believe this now was. Yet I could not but observe, nor will I conceal the goodness of God to her, in preserving her now free both from sickness and paine, and in graunting her what she had so often pray'd for in her lifetime, that she might have her senses perfect at the last ; wee having seene and she felt the sad experience in her of the contrary formerly ; to witt, the greatist extremity possible both of sickness and paine, weh, though it was never able to rack her quite from her selfe, yet sometimes, by a confluence of humours, she would be so overdull'd, that she was all most all day apt to fall asleepe, a sad vail to that knowing soule ; and of weh she herself was not a little sensible, and would much lament it to me, that she could not with reason expell that uglie cloud (as she would call it) that overwhelmed her ; and when that was cleared up, she exceeded as farr the other way ; she could upon no termes gett any sleepe, she had a strange quick vivacity of spiritt, a violent active mind, a working fancy ; in fine, so all soule, as if she were already discharged of the clogg of body ; and this could her reason less master than the other extremity. She had not a thought then under

Mount Thabor, and all her discourses were in the highest heaven : In every occasion. and to every person that presented themselves to her, she would spend so many words, till she fainted away, and was quite spent to nothing. But now that she was preparing and approaching to her eternal rest, to a neerer conjuncture and more sacred union with him, whom her soule by love allways enjoyed, he pleased graciously to exempt her from the distractions of sickness and paine ; he granted her desire of a perfect enjoyment of her senses to the last, and conserved in her that heavenly tranquillitye of spiritt, she all her life time was Mrs. of ; that blessed peace of mind wch this world cannot give. What was this, but the kisse in the Canticles ? God's taking her out of the world in his owne arms ; an evidence and earnest of her future glory : a celestial calme, whereby she might the fuller contemplate, and have a clearer inspection into those ineffable joyes she was entring into, and a true antitast of the peace of the blessed she was shortly to enjoy. After she had received the last sacraments, with as much satisfaction to herself, as little apprehension in us, my brother H. Thimelby, and I, sate discoursing with her about it, according to our reall thoughts, how little signe there was in her of any danger ; she never directly contradicted our opinions, but allways answered what-so-ever was spoke to her, though breifly, and in all her actions expressed a contrary thought, but for our sakes would not impart it to us : for none of us never putt our hand neere

her but she would lay hould of it, so hard, and with a kind of shake and kiss release it; wch action, though we reflected not on it then, she certainly intended a solemne taking her leave of us, and by this concealed way, she satisfyed her owne inclination of expressing love, yet according to her desire, kept us ignorant of her intention, and free from our sense of it. All this time wee perceaved nether sickness, nor paine in her, she complayning all this day of nothing but heate and shortness of breath. After dinner I came to her, and dismist all out of the roome, and sate by her perswading her to sleepe: she was willing to make tryall, but though she lay as still as her feaver and want of breath would lett her, she was farr from it. On a sudden she sayd to me, ‘pray Mr. Aston lett me see all the children, you know not how soon I may dy.’ I desired she would not trouble her self, nor afflict them more with her feares, then I hop’d there was need. She answered me, ‘I will say very little to them, but I must needs take my leave of them, and give them my blessing;’ this strooke me to the very hart, though I did not believe, but she had more feare then reason for it. I call’d the children in, and after she had given them all her blessing, all she sayd to them was, ‘children be sure you be allwayes good, and doe whatsoever yr father bids you; you that are the bigger may. and must, be sure to remember these my last words to you; and so calling them one by one to her, she affectionately kissed them, bad God bless them and dismist them.’ After



this my mother and sister Thimelby came to her, and in all her actions, and few words to them, she now confirmed the sad thoughts, her last farrwell to her children had fixt in me. She remayned from 4 of the clocke till almost 8 complayning, and indeed with reason, of her heate, her feaver much increasing: then the doctor came, and feeling her pulse comforted her in saying, she might drink as much as she would, wch we had ignorantly, and and with no small punishment to her, desired her to forbear. But he freely informed and directed us from whence now I must only hope for comfort. Whosoever saw me then, much more my calmness by her all night, but most of all my surviving such a loss, may conclude my love to her had little of passion; then I hope the more of truth, both then and ever. Indeed my strange quiet and resignation then, is more my owne wonder than it can be anyes, it was so contrary to what I felt, so beyond any vertue I ever owned; it was she, and only she that layd this storm she had raysd; made up what she had ruind; by closing her eyes opened mine, and by her last breath upon me, inspir'd me with comforts I had not beene acquainted with all; tooke my hart with her, and gave it a relysh of those celestial joyes she here with such assurance always lov'd, and there with so much comfort everlastingly enjoys. I no sooner receaved this sad knowledge from the phisitian, but we dispatcht him to his lodging, and brought downe to her the phisitian that was proper to her condition. Now it was

about nine of the clocke, and she grew shorter and shorter breath, and her fever increased; yet she was very present to herselfe in a sweet tranquillity of mind and body and as often askt how she was, she allwayes sayd well, and in noe paine. I doe easily believe it, and I conceive you will think no less when you consider what I very well know, her soule often in her life time so overflowd with the effects and highest operations of devine love, that she felt joyes and delights thereby not to be expressed. How impossible was it then she could be sensible now of any thing but joyes when she was so neere the possession for ever of them, of wch formerly the very hope and expectation did so often seze and transport her. The good man who assisted her, putt into her mouth and thoughts many devout jaculatoryes, pious acts, and devine considerations; such as were short, she sayd after him; such as by her shortness of breath she could not reach unto, by her action all along, and by her assent when he had done, she exprest her hart had gone along with him, though her voyce fayled her: then did wee all pray with her, and for her, round about her bed, most part of the night. Now in an intervall, that the good man gave her for her rest, wee all quiett, about eleven a clocke as I take it, she of a sudden spoake out, with a loud voyce. The good man stept to her encouraging her with such devout sayings as he thought necessary, which she repeated as before, keeping the same peace of mind, without shew of the least disturbance the same speach and readiness

to answeare to what was spoken to her, the same perfectness of sense, though visible that she was neerer her end by the drawing of her breath. In another cessation of prayer wch was betweene 1 and 2 of the night she spoake out againe, ‘Oh how crafty the devil is, how crafty to deceave men,’ then resting a little first; ‘but Jesus is to me a Jesus.’ Then the good man interposed: ‘’tis well, sayd he, sweet cosen,’ encouraging her to take comfort in that blessed name, and amongst other things repeated to her her owne saying, as wee thought, Jesus be to me a Jesus, (for we then understood not she sayd, is): she tooke the word somewhat hastily out of his mouth, and with great earnestness, at first againe repeated divers times, Jesus is to me a Jesus. One that was by, and had beene pertaker with her, and an eye-witness in all her great sicknesses and sufferings, these 15 years past, first understood her, and cry’d out, ‘she says, Jesus is to me a Jesus.’ Wee all then clearly perceaved it, and with joy exprest so much to her. she seemed pleased we did so, and taking that comfortable saying into her mouth againe, she repeated it, as long as she had breath to pronounce a word; and in this expression of her love to us, and assurance in God, without the least strife or motion of her body, just as she used to dropp a sleepe, she delivered her blessed soule to her dear Saviour, a perfect holocaust to His love, on the 9th of July, a little after 2 of the clocke in the morninge, a little after day breake. And if it be true that in the combus-

tion of windes, and horrid tempests, the evill spiritts are abroad, then this morninge was an evidence of the blessed attendance that accompanied this happy soule in her ascent to heaven : for a more calm, serene, pleasant, or more glorious morning then this, could not be. A true mirrour, that represented to us, both that lovely serenity of mind, that sweet creature allways enjoyed here on earth, and that transcendant glory she now possesseth in heaven. God gave her here so cleare an insight and knowledge of Heavin, that she consumed in the desire of a full fruition; and had allways that violent aversion, and just sadness at the vaine amusements and seduced condition of most in the world, that she languished away in this holy resentment; so that she did not only, all her lifetime, exactly observe the devine precept of love to God, and our neighbour (the compendium of all our religious duties) but dyed a martyr to both.

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From Winifred Thimelby the abbess  
to her niece Gertrude d of Herbert Aston.

‘These for Mrs. Gertrude Aston.’

My Sweet Chyld,

How couldst thou fynd in thy hart to give addition to my troble, in parting with thee, and to be at such charges to vex me? I beleeve you thought itt discretion, to temper one pation by another: and therefore raysed my coller to moderate my greife; but you fayl'd in your ayme, and left poore Keat, to bear alone the scourge of my just

anger. You have read how it goes with me, tis now your torne to tell me how you doe. See you performe yr taske clearly, and largely : no general terms will serve my torne. I must know all perticulers of yr indispositions, that I may better know how to direct my prayers : whether thancksgiving, or petition suits you best. I have already past the hardest, I mean that of oblation, and shall continue the second in a corner after matins, but the 3rd I long to have publicke in company of my good sisters. Tell us therefore quickly, is your ague quit gon. that we may all give thancks to God. How strangely doe I speake, as if health wear the proper motive of gratitude, whereas certaynely patience in sicknis is far above itt ; and presuming one of thees, com what will, my hart shall ever prayse God for thee. For I am confident yr lott shall be made good, which you chose with Mrs Hacon. Remember it well, but doe not mistake me. I meane not, presently to be a nun. I mean not to seal thee up in a cloyster, (as for that, his will be done, in spyt of fond desyres) but I meane to seale thee up to His owne service. Love God, and doe what thou wilt. I'le promise to love thee every jot as well as if a nun : as truely, as constantly, as dearly, because unchangeably thy most affectionat ante.

W. THIM.

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From Eliza (Thimelby) wife of Mr. Cottington to  
Herbert Aston her uncle.

Deare Unkle

I doe assure you, though I preferd my health in the first place, I look upon France to be no less advantagose in all other respects. But what is this to you, who injoys all that can be, at your *little\** Bellamour? Only you can extend so far the greatest charity, when you remember me at your so regular devotions. As to my owne perticuler, some says here, I am not in so much danger, but I doubt it is all one: if so, I hope I shall have your advise, what will be best to doe, for a poor banisht-creature who is, in all conditions, more yours than you have reason to believe. As you are just I will say no more, but that I am

Your most affectionat nece  
to serve you,  
E. C.

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These for Mrs. Catherine Aston the younger at Loven.  
My Deare Girle

I received, the other day, a lre from you without date; it told, in short, all I desire to heare. Yt you love, and are so much beloved by yr reverend mother; had you paid her less respect and affection, you had so far strayed from reason and truth; and had she bin less kind to you, she had made an ill returne to me, for my greatest expression of kind-

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\* This expression confirms what has been said about the old house—that it was always small—as the string-course proves.



ness I was capable of, my parting with you, which, but for God's sake, yr owne, and hers, I should not have done ; so good and dutifull a child you have bin ever to me, that I knew not how better to requite you, than to quit my own private interest and contentmt for yr advantage, wch you must needes reape from so lovely loving and beloved a directrix.

She will soon instruct you how inconsiderate all joyes of sense are, and teach you quickly to shake off all resentmts (*i.e.*, feelings) of nature, for those of grace, so infinitely preferable. Not so much as remember you had a father, but by reflection of that love by wch he abandons himselfe for you ; for whose sake, be carefull of yrselfe ; and walk, and exercise as much as you can ; and reade agayne, and agayne, as a booke of devotion, yt booke of new offices I gave you, ther being most excellent things in it, and when you are pleased, stick ther, and range not on to looke for wt you have found : yt were foolisher than we hunsmen. I warrant you we beate no more bushes when we have found our hare.

Though I was but few dayes at Belamore, being forced to goe into Glostershire, yet I was with my lady Bagot, and cosen Wells. They, and all at Colton, George Wright most extraordinarily, present their services to you. I have set Belamore, and 20*l.* a yeare, next to the house. I sold likewise my horses, and foure cowes, and my house is likely better to be looked to, and I pleased, since I am here childles, to bee servantles, and houseless ; and

thereby much more careless, but not one whit of you and yr three sisters: you are all to my wish and satisfaction, and therefore be sure of the utmost endeavours for you of

Yr affectionate father,

HERB. ASTON.

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Septbr. 2, 1672.

Hond. and Deare Brother,

Keat has received yours with all dutifull, that is unexpressible, joy; and kyndly flatters me into beleefe you'l receive her answer as willingly by my pen as her owne, especially when I tell you 'tis to spare her ill eyes, which find too much employment by the duties of order, in present circumstances, Sister Anne Gifford lying a dying; which brings an obligation of reading many prayers for her: both living and dead. But poore Keat knows not how ill a choyce she has made: for I that could never yet speak what was fit for myself, how is it possible I can do it for her? But I'll trusst your goodniss will keep my councill, and make good, by yr kind faith, what's neither seen nor heard, beleaving stedfastly she retornes all she shuld: and now methinkes I have hitt it, and defye any can say more for her: Therefor be so obligyngly kind, as to applye the same words to

Yr most affectionat sister,

W. THIMELBY.

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1674 A.D.

Ever Hond. and dearest brother,

I know not how in conscience I can thank you for the last bounty of yr letter, since it tyes faster those knotts of love to somnthyng I must leave when I dye ; which, by age, can not be far off, yet farther than I wish, if it be but till to-morrow. This may seem great presumption in one so ill prepared ; yet for my part I thinke it none, since 'tis mercy only is my trust ; and, without that life is more dangerous than death, because 'twould but increase future evils. I repent what I have sayde, fearing 'twill make your partiality take fals measure of me every way ; I am too gross a dissembler, if I confess not your correspondence has a better relish with my appetite than any other : but this secures not but it may be unwholesom ; not by its own nature. but by my intemperance. Really I would faine loving nothing but God, but all you at Bellamour are notorious theefs, yourselfe the captain, and steal, or rather openly rob, of that poore interest I should pay only to heaven. Whensoever therefor you write to mee, pray for mee, that I may not sinke in that stream of pleasure ; but that it may carry me on to the maine ocean, wher' we all may happily drowne together. Your little god-daughter thrives by your blessing, not to greatnes, but goodnes, she has a great courage in a little body, and needes a bridle, but no spurr, she is all activity, and thinkes she is able to do all she sees in order dune. I hope her father will grant her petition of taking the scholer's habit, for her

desires are proved constant by the rake of delay ;  
and I shall take care she doe nothing above her  
streangth I expect his order, which shall be my  
rule as becomes yr most affectionat sister,

W. THIMELBY.

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From Winifred Thimelby written and sent with  
some gifts to Herbert Aston's children.

‘ For Bellamor.’

My dear children, girls and boys,

Ever since my jubily, I have longed for opportunity to convey these little things wear given me then because I expect none so fine agen. I hope you understand me well enough, to know, that when I send you nothing, 'tis because I have nothing I thinck you will ear for ; or els for want of opportunity. However, I have one way of conveying kyndnis, which can never mischary ; and dayly make use of itt. Yet perhaps you will not receive it, till the day of eternity. Then you'l see my cares, my prayers, my neer concerns for each of you. Gatt (Gertrude) I rejoyce in thy health, and ability to serve thy father, and assist thy brothers and sisters. Tis a happines, I hope, dear Franck will share in shortly. But I have some apprehension Franck, that thou wilt want Doctor Conquest in the country. I will thanck him for the good he has done thee : be sure thou leavest of grief for my good lady. Thou must not be such a stranger to heaven as to think itt's gaine, your losse. We have all indevored to speed her flight to that b. eternity.

God bless sweet Matt, Wat, and Hal, and all of you, I forgot to tell thee Gatt, I never had that letter yr father tells me you ritt ; but Franck I had both of yours, and sent a little purs, and christall, to thee, by one Mr. Digby ; but I doubt he ner delivered it, tho he promised fare. Now I send all together, agree among yourselves, as I know you will : but whatever your father lykes best, know for certayne, that is designed for him.

From your most intirely loving aunt.

W.T.

My dearly dear children

Your brother Jack tells me that you kindly thinck it long, since you heard from me ; I perceiv there has been mis-cariage of yr letters, for, certainly, had I received any, I should have answered them ; tho, I confess, it was my design to wean, both myself, and you, from that satisfaction : for now my age tells me I have not long to live ; therfor, my sweet children, I would have you remember me only in your prayers : I'll do the same by you ; yet if a letter coom from you, I own t'will be a pleasant distraction ; and I will be sure to give you another ; but this will pass : let our constant labour bee who shall run swiftest towards the happy eternity : For nothing in this world but may advance our speed, if we know how to make right use of it : as long as your father lives I have no ear(e) for you : I am sure he is no less your spiritual father than your natural. I praye God you may hould him fast. but, alas, you must, at last, when God calls, let him

goe. Be sure therefor, to make benefit of the time mercy indulges him to you; and pray I may not outlive your happiness in him; for being totally unable to give you any comfort myself t'would prove an unsufferable cross to your poor, but most affectionat aunt.

W. T.

When you rit, be sure to tell me particulers of each of you, for really my love is so perticiler to every one, boys and girls, that a general accompt serves not my turne. When you see worthy Mr. Morgan give him my best respects, though I shall never clearly forgive his forsaking Lovaing: tell him ould (*sic*) deare father lives now, I thinck, onely to give us a pattern how to die: He is so weake, not able to goe one stepp, nor scarce to speak to be understood, by any but those that are continually about him. Yet so cherful in the expectation of death, that he even vexes me, to see him so long to leave us; T'other day, hearing him sigh, I demanded the cause. He tould me he longed to dye: I answered he was about itt; He replyed "O may itt be this day, this hour, this moment." His tears mayd out the rest; you may be sure he wept not alone. We dayly expect his death, which will bee his joy; but unspeakable grife to your poor affectionat aunt.

W. T.

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From Winifred Thimelby to her neices describing the death of their sister Katherine Aston, Herbert's daughter, at Louvain.



For my dear girls,

My dear sweet girls you must not think yr sister Keat is dead, though my joys be so. She truly lives, and shall never dy. She laughs at our fond tears, for God has wyp'd her eyes. Wonder not that I speak so confidently, for all that saw her virtues (which is every one in the house) thinks what I say. This last half year God was pleased to try her with much infirmity, and great paines, especially in her head; in that extremitie, that sometimes she could not speak; but she had made a bargan with me, that when she held up her finger I must torn to God for her, with a 'fiat voluntas tua.' Just the night before God took her from me, she had been discoursing with one of our sisters, who lamented the misery of humane frailty, that drags us sometimes to doe or say, what we know to be amiss. No, said she, say not so, tis too true, that we often frayly doe amiss but I cannot believe that any will doe ill, when they perceive itt so. When this was told our father, he answered, 'She measured others by herself, for she never did.' I'll say no more, least I coole your devotion in praying for her, and we must remember, our judgments fall infinitely short of Allmightie God's, in whose sight the very stars are not pure.

I am yr too much affectionat aunt,

W.T.

From Winifred Thimelby written  
to her brother-in-law, Herbert Aston.

July 13, 1684.

Hond Dear Brother,

Mrs. Aston is sauffy arryved, and as kyndly well-comed of all, as we can make appear, till longur time furnish us with opportunity of reall servis to her. It had been enough for me, to understand her a friend to Bellamore: that alone had comaunded all my forces and imployed them to her best advantage and my singular content. But experience tells mee, that thing content is not to be had in this sad world, unmixt with cars and fears. For she brings the unwellcom news of your decaying strength. How can you blame me for desiring to drope away, to spare my eyes ther streams? If you dye before mee, I shall quickly goe after you. But then, alas! what becomes of our dear girlls and boyes? Thers my concearne, els I could afford you all the great advantages death will bring you. Forgive me, dear brother, that I wish, and pray, that your sojourning may be prolonged. You end your letter with a ridle I have not witt to find out. You say you hope to hear I believe better of you than I did: which seems impossible: my faith concearning you cannot be more strongly kynd, no more then can my love increase.

I am unchangeably, Hod. Dear Brother,

Your most intirely loving

though most unworthy sister,

W. THIM.

From C. Hacon, a nun of the  
Convent at Louvain to Gertrude Aston  
at Bellamour.

Deare Madam,

Sept. 2.

If you have received my last about a month ago, of the indisposition of your deare aunt, and the particulars of her disease, you will not be now much surprised, that God has pleased to take her to himself. Sertainly you have reason to rejoyce for her happiness, which must be great, after so pious a life. She received the last sacraments with great devotion, being perfectly herselfe, and so overjoyed to dye, that I coming to her, not so well resigned as I ought to have bin, she was in amaze, and wondered I could be troubled at what she so much rejoyced at; and charged me to go directly, to give God thanks for all his mercys to her. I must needs owne, I'm too selfish in greefing to part with her, that's farr happier without me. She had always a most extreme, tender affection for you all at Bellamour. Her death was the palsey, which tooke possession of every part, but most of her head, and was wholly speechless for a week before she dyed. I send obiit, that you may never forget to pray for her, in which you will extremely oblige,

Deare Madam,

Your most affectionate humble servant,

C. HACON.

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## Colton Chartulary.

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The following grants of land in the Parish of Colton dating from the latter part of the 12th century down to the 18th (circâ 1185—1725 A.D.), have been

collected from the "Ingestre," "Blithfield," and "Drakelowe" muniments; from the Gresley Chartulary, a MS. of 16th century date, preserved at the Chetham Library, Manchester; from (Erdeswicke's) Harl. MSS. No. 506 B.M.; from the late Sir Thomas Phillip's original deeds at Cheltenham; and from Walter Chetwynd's MSS.; together with a few from Sir Charles Wolseley's Charters, the Cornwall Leigh, and the Stowe MSS. (B.M.)

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GRESLEY CHARTULARY (AND M. RIDWARE DEEDS)

c. 1185 (?)

Nicholaus Mavasyne de Coltun Gilberto fratri meo dimidiam virgatum terre in Coltun, quam Willelmus de Longefort tenuit. Testibus Galfrido Salvagio, Wi(done) de Muttun, Roberto de Muttun, Hugone Mauvesyne, Rogero filio suo, Willelmo Mauvesine, Geraldo de Coltun, Galfrido de Coltun, Ivone de Waletune. Seal, armed horseman with raised sword.

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(7,925) \*PHILIPPS (MSS.) (c. 1198—1208 A.D.)

Galfridus, Dei gratiâ Coventrie ecclesie humilis minister,† omnibus ad quos presens scriptum pervenerit salutem; Noverit universitas vestra nos dedisse, &c., Warino Griffyn de Colton, et heredibus

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Hugh Mavesyn occurs in 1166 A.D. Gerald de Coltun was dead before the church suit in 1203 A.D. Nicholas Mavesyn occurs as late as 1203 A.D., and Geoffrey Savage (I) died 1195 A.D.

\* (N.B.) These Philipps and Harleian (No. 506) deeds relate entirely to the "St. Thomas" lands in Colton—(*i.e.*) to the "Lount" and "the Grange" (or Boughey Hall).

† Geoffrey (de Muschamp) was Bishop from 1198 A.D.—1208 A.D.,

suis, pro homagio et servicio suo, totam terram ad “Lund,” sub Colewele, quam Adam le Wrathe tenuit, et essartum sub eâdem Colewelle juxta Burneboc, quod Robertus carpentarius tenuit, et de incremento latitudinem quatuor acrum extra sepes predictarum terrarum, et longitudinem de essarto quod fuit Turkilli, usque Burneboc, cum omnibus eorum pertinentiis, in manerio nostro de Heywode. Tenendas et habendas sibi et heredibus suis, de nobis et successoribus nostris, libere et quiete, in bosco et plano, in pratis et pascuis et omnibus libertatibus et asiamentis; Reddendo inde annuatim nobis, et successoribus nostris, pro omni servicio &c., quatuor solidos ad quatuor terminos, scilicet &c. Hiis testibus, Osberto senescallo, Thomã de Erdinton, Philippo de Wasteneys, Willelmo Gryffyn, Galfrido de Coltun, Galfrido de Colwych, Rogero de Colwich, Ricardo de Bissopeston, Roberto Ruffo, Hugone Britone, Willelmo de Drengeton, Roberto Blundo, Henrico de Langedum, Nicolao Camerario, et multis aliis.

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(No. 7925.) PHILIPPS MSS. (1215-25 A.D. ?)

Sciant p, et f, quod ego Guarinus de Colton, dedi &c. Johanni, filio meo, pro homagio et servicio suo, totam terram meam de Lund, sub Colewall, quam tenui de domino meo Episcopo Coventri', de manerio de Haywode; Habendam et tenendam sibi, et heredibus suis, de me, et heredibus meis, jure hereditario, cum omnibus pertinentiis suis libere &c., cum omnibus libertatibus dicto manerio de Heywode pertinentibus; Reddendo inde annuatim mihi, et

heredibus meis, de se, et heredibus suis, quatuor solidos argenti, et quatuor denarios ad quatuor terminos, scilicet ad festum Sancti Andree tresdecem denarios, et ad festum Sancte Marie, in marcio, tresdecem denarios, et ad festum Sancti Johannis Baptiste tresdecem denarios, et ad festum Sancti Michaelis tresdecim denarios. Pro hac autem donacione, &c., dedit mihi quatuor marcas argenti. Ego, vero, Guarinus (usual warranty and seal). Hiis testibus; domino Galfrido de Gresley, Adâ personâ de Colwich, Johanne clerico de Colwich, Henricode Heiwode, Ricardo de Hopton, Willelmo Gryffyn de Colton, Hugone filio Thome ibidem, Waltero le Brett.

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(No. 7925.) PHILIPPS MSS. (CIRCA 1230 A.D.)

Sciant tam presentes quam futuri quod ego Johannes, filius Warini\* de Coltun, vendidi, et concessi, et quietam clamavi de me et heredibus meis, in perpetuum, Hugoni de Brossa totam terram quam pater meus et ego tenuimus de domino Coventri et Lichfelddensi Episcopo, infra manerium de Haywode. Tenendam et habendam in perpetuum, in feodo et hereditate, dicto Hugoni et heredibus suis, vel assignatis suis, &c., de Dño Alexandro† Coventr. et Lichfeld. Epō, et successoribus suis, libere quiete honorifice, et pacifice, cum omnibus pertinentiis suis et libertatibus et esiamenis, et

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\* This deed, compared with the foregoing, establishes the identity of "Warin de Colton" with Warin Griffyn de Colton.

† Bishop Alexander is Alexander de Stavenby, consecrated 14th April, 1224 A.D., died 26th December, 1238A D.



communis, in bosco et plano, in pratis et pascuis, in viis et semitis, in aquis et moris, et mariscis, et in omnibus locis ita plenarie et integre sicut eam unquam pater meus et ego plenius et integrius tenuimus, faciendo inde servicium dicto Domino Alexandro Episcopo, et successoribus suis, quod pater meus et ego facere consuevimus annuatim pro terrâ dictâ. Scilicet quatuor solidos argenti annuos ad terminos in dicto manerio constitutos, pro omni servicio et exactione ad dictam terram pertinente. Pro hac autem venditione, &c., dedit mihi predictus Hugo viginti quinque marcas argenti. Et Ego Johēs p'fatus ei plenariam seysinam feci inde plenariam (*sic*) in curiâ de Heywode Meipsum et heredes meos penitus deponendo, et totum jus quod habui, vel habere potui, et omnia munimenta quecunque habui de dictâ terrâ pro me et hæredibus meis in manum dicti domini Episcopi resignavi ad opus dicti Hugonis, et heredum suorum et assignatorum suorum. In cujus rei testimonium presenti scripto sigillum meum apposui. Hiis Testibus: Dño Philippo,\* tunc Abbate Rowcestre, dño Galfrido de Gresele, dño Hugone Bagot, milite, dño Galfrido de Abbilbii, Dño Stephano Meverel, Dño Johanne de Actun, Nicholao Meverel, Ricardo Bagot, Henrico de Nortun, Humfrido de Strettun, Dño Adâ personâ de Kolewich, Johanne de Kolewich, et totâ curiâ de Haywode, et aliis.

[Beautifully written, seal gone, but wax has been green.]

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\* Abbot Philip was succeeded by Abbot Richard in 1256.

Sciant p. et f. quod Ego Hugo de Breusia dedi, &c., Magistro Simoni de Walton totam terram meam quam habui in *villa de Colton, et infra manerium de Heywode*, scilicet "*le Lounde*," cum omnibus pertinentiis suis sine aliquo retenimento, tenendam et habendam de me et heredibus meis, sibi et heredibus suis, vel quibuscunque assignatis suis, infra religionem et extra, libere et quiete, et cum omnibus pertinentiis suis, &c., ad predictam terram de Colton, "*et de la Lounde*," spectantibus, in perpetuum. Reddendo inde annuatim dño Coventr. et Lichf. Epō, &c., quatuor solidos argenti ad quatuor anni terminos: Scilicet ad festum Seti, Michaelis duodecim denarios, et ad festum Scti Andree duodecim denarios, et ad festum B. Marie in Marcio 12 denarios, et Scti Johis Bapt. 12 denarios et duos denarios ad festum Sancti Michaelis Galfrido filio Warini de Colton et heredibus suis pro omni servitio, et exactione, vel demanda, salvo forinseco servitio, si quis aliquid forinsecum servitium de predictâ terrâ debeat prestare. Pro hac autem donacione, &c., dedit mihi predictus Magister Symon quadraginta marcas argenti. Ego vero et heredes mei totam prenominatam terram de Coltone, et de le "*Lounde*," cum omnibus pertinentiis, suis, &c., prefato Symoni et heredibus suis infra religionem et extra, &c., warrantizabimus in perpetuum, et ut hec mea donacio rata et stabilis permaneat in perpetuum presens scriptum sigilli mei impressione, et testium appositione, corroboraui. Hiis testibus: Domino Henrico Mavesin de Ridware, domino Willielmo de

Wastineys, Domino Willielmo de Bromley, militibus, Pagano de Wasteneys, Roberto de Mapelton, Ada de Colwych, Willielmo Griffin de Coltun, Hugone de Coltun, Willielmo de Styphinton, et aliis. (7925 Philipps' deeds.)

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(No. 7925.) PHILIPPS' MSS.

Omnibus has literas visuris vel audituris, Rogerus de Styvinton (?) sempiternam in domino, Salutem. Noverit universitas vestra me dedisse, &c., fratri Nicholao, Priori Sancti Thome, martyris juxta Stafford, et ejusdem loci conventui, in liberam puram et perpetuam elemosinam, homagium et servicium Galfridi le Wasteneys, domini de Tyxhale, et heredum suorum, mihi debitum de quinque acris terre, quas tenet de me in villâ de Colton, cum annuo redditu quatuor denariorum, ab eis plenarie precipiendorum item homagium et servicium Willielmi domini de Bromley Bagod, et heredum suorum, mihi debitum de octo acris terre cum uno messuagio quod de me tenet in villa de Stivinton, cum annuo redditu quatuordecim denariorum, reddendo inde annuatim Johanni, filio Thome de Stivinton, octo denarios, item homagium et servicium Willielmi filii Rogeri fabri de Colton, et heredum suorum mihi debitum de unâ acrâ prati, quod de me tenet in "Emedewe," cum annuo redditu unius paris albarum cyrothecarum de pretio unius denarii. Item servicium Henrici Griffin de Coltun et heredum suorum de medietate unius acre prati [very faint, but apparently correct] quam de me tenet in

“Emedewe”\* cum annuo reddito unius denarii.

Item homagium et servicium Petri le Bret de Colton, et heredum suorum mihi debitum de medietate de “Aldwine-Holme,”† quam de me tenet, cum annuo reddito unius oboli. Item servicium Willielmi, filii Willielmi de le Piewe (Puiz ?) et heredum suorum mihi debitum de dimidiâ acra terre, quam de me tenet in le “Newlond,” cum annuo reddito unius oboli. Tenend. et habend. dictis Priori et conventui, et successoribus suis, libere, &c., cum wardis, mariagiis, releviis, auxiliis, et escaetis, &c., ad me vel heredes meos inde aliquo modo spectantibus in perpetuum. Et ego Rogerus, et heredes mei, &c., (usual warranty), in cujus rei testimonium presenti scripto sigillum meum apposui. Hiis testibus: Domino Willielmo de Kaverswall, milite, Adâ de Colewij. Johanne Griffen de Colton, Roberto de Wulseleye, Johanne le Harpur de Colton, et aliis. (Philipps’ MS. 7925.) —————

(No. 7925.) PHILIPPS MSS. (c. 1235—1240 A.D.)

Sciant presentes et futuri quod ego Magister Symon de Walton dedi et c. et hac presenti cartâ mēa confirmavi Deo, et ecclesie Sancti Thome martyris juxta Stafford, et canonicis regularibus ibidem Deo servientibus, pro salute anime mee, et

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\* Emedewe is the modern “Eye Meadow” (corrupted into Haymeadow), on the banks of the Trent. (See Colton Tithe Map, Nos 249-252.)

+ “Aldwine-Holm” = the *Almholm* of Queen Elizabeth’s time, the modern “Almonds” (See Tithe Map No. 611). Corrupted once into *Hammonds*.

meorum antecessorum et successorum, in liberam puram et perpetuam elemosinam, totam terram quam emi et habui de Hugone de Brewsya in villâ de Colton, et extra, videlicet totam terram de *le Lound*, infra manerium de Heywode, cum omnibus pertin' suis, et quoddam acrum in villâ de Coltun, cum domibus et virgultis, et aliis, ad idem acrum pertinentibus, illud scilicet quod fuit quondam Warini Gryffyn de Colton: 'Tenend' &c. de me, et heredibus meis, in liberam et perpetuam elemosinam sibi, et successoribus suis, libere et quiete, et pacifice, cum omnibus pertinentiis suis, libertatibus, aysiamentis, et communis ad dictam terram de 'le Lounde,' et acrum pertinentibus in perpetuum. Reddendo inde annuatim Domino Coventr' et Lichfeld' episcopo (qui pro tempore fuerit) quatuor solidos argenti. Scilicet ad festum Sancti Michaelis duodecim denarios &c. (*vide supra*), et duos denarios ad festum Sancti Michaelis Galfrido, filio Warini de Colton, et heredibus suis pro omni seculari servicio &c., in perpetuum: salvo forinseco servicio si &c.; ego autem totam prenominatam terram de 'le Llounde,' et predictum acrum &c. eodem modo quo prefatus Hugo de Breusia &c. predictis ecclesie et canonicis, contra omnes homines et feminas warrantizabimus in perpetuum. Et ut hec meo donacio &c. presens scriptum sigilli mei impressione corroboraui. Hiis testibus, domino Henrico Mawwesyn, domino Willelmo de Wasteneys, domino Hugone de Bromley (*i.e.*, Bagot), domino Willelmo fratre ejus, militibus, Pagano de Wasteneys, James (*sic*) de Blithfeld,

Willelmo Griffyn de Colton, Willelmo filio suo, Hugone de Coltone, Willelmo de Broctone, Adâ de Colwych, Warino preposito de Haywode, Johanne Grym, Willelmo de Styfinton, et aliis. (c. 1235—40 A.D. ?)

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ERDESWICK (506 HARL. MSS.) (c. 1240—5. A.D. ?)

Willelmus de Wasteneyis dedit Johanni le Bret pro homagio et servicio suo, Calvescroft, quam \*Galfridus, armiger, tenuit; et pratum vocatum “Sollich Inge” ad Firsowles, quod Robertus filius Matilde tenuit in villâ de Colton, &c.

Johannes, filius Walteri le Bret, Deo et ecclesie Sancti Thome, totam terram meam in Coltona, pro salute Emme uxoris mee, “calvescroft et Lichinge” (Sollich-Inge) ad Firesoules (506 B.M.).

Hugo, filius Thome de Colton, Johanni le Bre totam partem meam de terra, que fuit Gerardi, avi mei, juxtam terram Johannis le Bret (506 Harl. MSS., B.M.)

Hugo, filius Thome de Colton, Johanni Britoni totam partem meam de mara que fuit Gerardi, avi mei, versus domum dicti Johannis le Bret (506 Harl. MSS., B.M.)

Willielmus,† filius Willielmi, de Coltun, Priori

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Seal, vesica shaped, bearing an impression resembling a virgin and child, with two kneeling figures below, and this inscription: “Sigillum Symon’ de Walton”; but the seal is very faint.

\* Galfridus, armiger = Geoffrey Griffyn.

† William, son of William, is, I think, the grandson of Nicholas Mavesyn of Little Hay—not William, son of William de Wasteneyis. The gift to John Bret by William de Wasteneyis gives the surname. This grant omits it.



Sancti Thome et canonicis &c., omnimodo sequelam curie mee, quam facere solebat pro terrâ Johannis le Bret in Colton, et pro quibuscunque in posteris de feudo meo poterunt adipisci, ita tamen, quôd bis in anno aliquis, per eos destinatus, ad curiam meam veniat, pro afforamento, post rationabilem summonicionem . . . Concessi et eisdem, liberum ingressum ad ministracionem in quacunque terrâ eidem aliquis de feudo meo conferre voluerit, &c. (Harl. MSS., 506 B.M.)

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#### BLITHFIELD DEED (c. 1250 A.D. ?)

Robert, son of John son of Edde de Admaston gives to John son of Robert del Eyot pro homagio, all the land Henry the chaplain formerly held, *i.e.*, the crofts (croftos) del Lee in the fee of Colton—Habend &c.—at a rent of one rose bud at the feast of St. James—paying as earnest for this grant one mark at the feast of St. James—Test. James de Blithfield, Richard Citheratore (the harper), John of Changworth, Wm. Wymar of Morton, Swan the Smith.

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#### BLITHFIELD DEED (1257 A.D.).

Know all men, now living or to come, that we William de Wasteney,\* William styled ‘the young Lord,’ Hugh son of Thomas, and William Griffyn de Colton give and grant to Robert son of John de Admaston  $5\frac{1}{2}$  acres of land in our waste in Colton

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\* These four were the lords of the Colton Manors—witness their grant of land “in our waste” of Colton,

near *Grishall brook* opposite the *spring of Gryshall*.\* To have and to hold quietly with all rights, &c., in exchange for a portion he had (*i.e.*, his interest) in 28 acres of waste land within our territory of Colton, within which 28 acres are  $11\frac{1}{2}$  which we have given to the Prior and Convent of St. Thomas—and 10 acres also which Sir John de Wyville holds, and 7 acres which Henry son of Hugh holds upon Stevenhill (obliterated in the middle of the word, but this appears to be the right reading)—The usual warranty—These witnesses Hugh de Weston Kt., Ralph de Hampton, Thomas Grym† of Haywood, Adam Wychar de Tonestall, Richard son of Alexander of the same place, John son of Roisia of Bromley. No date, but an early endorsement on the back of the deed gives 41. Henry 3. (*i.e.*, 1257 A.D.)

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#### INGESTRE DEED (c. 1240 ?).

Know all men &c. that I William‡ son of William de Colton give grant and confirm by this my deed to William de Jokeshalle (Yoxall) for homage and

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\* If "*Grishall*" spring is identical with the modern *Crissle* spring, (for so "*Cresswell*" is pronounced) an alteration the scribe might easily make, then "*Grishall brook*" is the brook flowing through Hamly mill ditch field. At the "*source*" it now runs through pipes. Land near Creswell would be convenient to Admaston, and the witnesses are from that side.

† The Grym family were of some note, they lived at Little Haywood, and held under the Bishop.

‡ William son of William = William, son of William, son of Nicholas Mavesyn of Colton ; the first witness is a Mavesyn. The date may be circa 1240 A.D.

service two acres and a half of land in my fee of Colton, namely those which lie within the land of Richard the Hairy (Pilloi). To have and to hold to him and his heirs, any religious foundation excepted, in fee and inheritance fully, freely, &c., with thac and thol and all other liberties rights easements &c. thereto belonging—He paying me a rent of sevenpence halfpenny—moreover for this grant he paid down to me thirty shillings in silver—The usual warranty and seal—These witnesses—Henry Mavesyn, Geoffrey de Gresley, James de Blithfield.

No date is given, but it is not probably later than middle of the 13th century (*vide* pedigree, &c.).

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(1252 circa?) INGESTRE DEED.

Sciant pr' et fut' quod ego War\* (warin) de Colton dedi, concessi et hac pr' carta mea confirmavi Wmo. filio Hervei le Bret de Colton in libero maritagio cum Juliana filia mea, et heredibus suis, &c., totum assartum meum in *Wirdeshay* et unam dimidiam acram terre super *Hungrehull*,† *juxta semitam Vicecomitis*, et unam acram terre in ‡ *Perichfeld*(?) Scilicet unam dimid' acram ex una parte semitis qua itur § *ad vadum de Rugeley*, et unam aliam dimid' acram

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\* Warin de Colton = Warin Griffyn de Colton.

† Hunger Hill (646) *v. plan* Semitam vicecomitis, *i.e.*, Sherracop Lane (*v. supra* p 41) Perichfield = ‡ modern "Parchfield" Semitis qua itur ad "vadum" de Rugeley, § *i.e.*, the present Mill Lane or road to Rugeley Apparently the Trent Bridge was not yet built, the ford at the mill being in use. Coins have been found in this ford, within the memory of persons now living.

ex altera parte ejusdem semitis et unam dimid' acram prati in *Apleton medewe*, et unam aliam dimid' acram terre super predict' Hungrehull propinquirem predictæ dimidiæ acre *juxta semitam vice comitis* versus solem (*i.e.*, the nearest on the south side) excepta dimidia acra terre ecclesie. Reddendo unum par albarum cirotecharum ad Pascham — salvo forinseco servitio, &c. His testibus Wmo. Gryffen, Hygone\* fil' Thom' de Colton, Wmo. fil' Johan' de Chengworth, Johanne le Bret, Walerand le Bret et aliis.

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INGESTRE DEED. (c. 1285—90 ?).

Sciant presentes et futuri qd' ego Wms. fil' Petr' le †Bret de Colton dedi, concessi et hac presenti carta mea confirmavi pro me et hered' meis dom Ricardo de Bissopeston clerico et hered' suis quinque seliones terre arrabil, in campo de Colton jacentes, inter viam que ducit de Colton versus molendinu' et terram Henrici de Colton in latitudine, et Hortum dicti Willmi le Bret et foveam ejus vocatam Colton-dight in longitudine. Habend' et tenend' &c., &c. Reddendo mihi annuatim unum obol' argenti in festo sancti Jacobi Apostoli; pro hac autem donacione dedit mihi Doms. Ricardus octo solid' argenti et ego dictus Wms. et heredes mei &c. — (the usual warranty). His testibus Henrico de Colton, Wmo. de Fraxino, Johne fil Walteri, Robto fil Henrici de Colton, et aliis.

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\* Hugh, son of Thomas, was a minor in 1203 A.D.

† There were several branches of the Bret family in Colton in the position of superior yeoman (they were here temp. James I. when Humphrey Bret pays to a loan).

## INGESTRE DEED. (c. 1295 ?).

Sciunt pres' et fut' quod ego Ricardus fil' Juliane del newlonde d' con' et hac pr' carta mea confirmavi Dmno. Wmo. de Yoxalle capellano illam acram terre cum pertin' suis que Ricardus del Newlonde dedit Cecilie uxori meœ, habend et tenend, &c. His testibus Dmno. Johanne de Wasteney's Wmo. Llouerd de Colton — Johne Gryffyn — magistro Roberto de Bromley—Roberto de Hampton et aliis.

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## UNDATED DEED. (c. 1250 ?)

I Matilda daughter of Symon of Yormhul (?) give to William son of Roger of Newlond half-an-acre of land in Colton lying in length between the *Blakelake* and the *Lone* (lane), and in width between the land of John de Asshurst and my own land—he paying me yearly 3 halfpence, and for this grant he gave me nineteen shillings and sixpence—signed in the presence of these witnesses — Richard de Newlond, John de Ashehurst, Colet de Newland, Henry Ffranceys of Blithbury, Peter of Newlond.

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(circa 1250 A.D.).

I John son of Warin de Colton\* give to master Richard More for homage and service all the open field called *Fernhurst* with its appurtenances in that inclosure (clausura ?) and I give one acre of land in *Wordeshay* which extends to *Cressewell*, between the land of Hugh, and that of Margery de Blithfeld, for a yearly rental of five pence—[here follow the usual

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\* John, son of Warin = John Griffyn, son of Warin Griffyn.

warranty and seal.] Witnesses Sir Roger de Somerville, Hugh the Vicar, William Griffin, Wm. le Jovene (?) James de Blithfeld, Adam de Collewiz, and Nicholas de Alewey.\*

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c. 1270 (?).

I William son of Robert . . . give to Henry Griffin of Colton all my land in *medewecroft* with its buildings and appurtenances, which I have by the feoffment of William de Almayne in the vill of Colton—To have and to hold by a rent of six silver pennies yearly, and for this grant he gave me seven silver marks. Witnessed by Peter le Bret of Colton, John le Harpour of Colton, William the Smith, Adam de Pree, Richard de Styventon.†

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c. 1250 (?)

I William de Newlond by this my deed grant to Matilda daughter of Symon de Blithbury one acre of land in the fee of Colton, lying in length between the high road and Blith, and in width between the land of William aforesaid and that of John de Ashurst and the land of Colet—To have and to hold &c. paying 3 pence to me and my heirs yearly, at

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\* One Nicholas de Alewey occurs in the Assize Rolls, 1227 A.D.

† A grant of 23 Ed. 3. from Wm. Wymare of Norton, chaplain, to John son of Richard de Blithfield, and Margaret his wife mentions the *water mill below Stivinton, as situated in Blithfield*.—Sir Thomas de Gastineys kt, is a witness. This is in all probability the Stiventon, or Stivington, so frequently occurring in the names of witnesses (compare St. Stephen's Hill, &c.,) Bagot deeds.



Mchms and Lady Day. And for this grant Matilda gave me beforehand forty shillings all but twelve pence.—These witnesses John de Huaker (Hans-acre ?) Robert Hammit, John de Ashurst, Colet son of Peter of Newlond, William de Barre, Henry his brother, Richard le Mulewart (*sic*) and others.

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#### UNDATED DEED (c. 1250 ?)

I John son of Warin de Colton give to William de Fraxino (*i.e.*, Ash) of Colton half an acre of land lying in Colton field, that is to say in Homeley, and it contains two selions, and lies between the land of John Griffin of Colton and that of Adam Hervi of Colton, and extends in length from the headland (Forreria) of Robert Hugin to the land of William the chaplain of Lichfield—To have and to hold &c. paying  $\frac{1}{2}$  penny—and for this grant William de Ash gave me twenty halfpence sterling - signed in the presence of these witnesses Henry de Colton, William at Ash de Colton, Peter le Bret of Colton, Richard atte-the-toft\* of Bishton, Robert Hugyn of Colton, John le Counter of Colton, Roger de Stivington, and others.

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#### INGESTRE DEED (c. 1250 ?).

I Richard of Newlands give to Cecilia daughter of Robert son of Emmote (?) of the Horecros,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  acres of land in Colton lying nearest the *Rusiciche*.† To have

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\* "The Toft" is still the name of the farm at Bishton, belonging to Sir C. Wolseley, and now occupied by Mr. Parton.

† Siche = a "rivulet." This was clearly land on the Marescha (or church) manor,

and to hold of Hugh de Colton and his heirs and of Wm. Griffen and his heirs, freely, &c., paying yearly to each of them a rent of  $2\frac{1}{4}$ , and for this grant Cecilia gave me beforehand  $2\frac{1}{2}$  silver mares. —These witnesses Adam Wymar of Blithbury, Henry Ffrance(ys) of the same, William de Barre, John de Ashurst, Nicholas de Newlond and others.

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INGESTRE DEED. (circa 1260 A.D.)

Sciunt omnes tam presentes quam futuri quod ego Petrus le Bret de Colton dedi concessi et presenti carta mea confirmavi \*Willo. fil' Edith de ead' et heredibus suis, scilicet duas acras terre mee arrabilis jacentes in territorio de Colton in *Trentfield*, inter terram† rectoris ecclesie de Colton ex utraque parte propinquiores (?) de Bishpiston capita earum extendentes super aquam de 'Trente, et altera capita sup' altam viam cum pertinentiis suis.—Habend' et Tenend' de me et heredibus meis, sibi et heredibus suis et assignatis suis, libere quiete et bona in pace in perpetuum, in feudo et hereditarie cuicunque et quandocunque dimittere, dare, vendere, assignare voluerint, et in extremis legare et excambiare, sive in pignus nominare, vel in firman ponere.

Reddendo inde annuatim ipse et heredes sui, aut assignati, mihi et heredibus meis unum denarium ad natale Dom' pro omni servicio et demanda

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\* William son of Edith (*i.e.*) *de Morhay*.

† This land is the "Ludgett,"  $9\frac{1}{2}$  acres of glebe, exchanged for the "Holmes," with Mr. Horsfall, and now part of the Bellamore grounds, near the Colwich Lodge.

seculari et per omnimoda secta curiarum. Pro hac autem donacione concessione et hujus carte confirmatione. habend' dedit mihi predictus Wilhelmus triginta solidos sterlingorum pre-manibus ad ingressum—[The usual warranty and seal]—These witnesses John Griffyn de Colton, William le Smith of Colton, Robert son of Hugh ad Ffrenam,\* John le Cunter and others. ———

#### INGESTRE DEED (c. 1260 A.D.?).

Sciant omnes tam presentes quam futuri quod ego Petrus le Bret de Colton dedi concessi et hac presenti carta mea confirmavi Willo. filio Edithe de *Morhay* et heredibus suis aut assignatis scilicet tres seliones† terre mee arrabilis cum uno parvo selione jacentes in campo de ‡*Sewentoft* (?) in territorio de Colton, inter terram Willmi. filii et moram unde capita eorum extendentes super pratum et altera capita super terram Henrici; Habend' et tenend' de me, &c.—Reddendo annuatim unum obolum argenti ad Pasch' Domi.—pro hac autem donacione et concessione et hujus carte mee confirmatione habend' dedit mihi pdictus Wms. novem solidos sterlingorum &c.—in hujus rei testimon, &c.—His testibus Johne de *Morhay* —Willmo. ad Ffrenam de Colton—Roberto fil' Hugonis de eadem, Wmo. Fabro de eadem, Johne le Cunter, Henrico filio Herewici, et multis aliis. ———

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\* Ad frenam = at "Ash," from the French Frêne (?).

† A 'Selion' is a ridge of arable land lying between two furrows.

‡ Sewentoft, now Sentaft (*v.* plan).

## INGESTRE DEED (c. 1250 ?).

Sciant presentes et futuri quod ego Wms. Bagodoms. de Bromley dedi concessi et hac presenti carta mea confirmavi in libero maritagio Henrico de Wasteney's Domo. de Tykeshall, et Alicie uxori sue. totam terram cum messuagio et omnibus aliis pertinentiis quam Robertus de Ridware avunculus suus quondam tenuit de Domo. Willmo. de Wasteney's in villa de Colton et etiam totam terram cum messuagiis et omnibus aliis pertinentiis quam dictus Robertus tenuit de Willmo. le Jovene Seignure in villa de Colton et totam terram cum omnibus pertinentiis quam dictus Robertus tenuit de Willmo. Stivington in villa de Colton, et totam terram cum pertin quam dictus Robertus tenuit de Johne le Harpur in villa de Colton et etiam decem solidos annui redditus, quas Xtiana mater mea solebat percipere de quadam terra in villa de Stivington, quam Gerardus quondam serviens persone de Blithfeld tenet.

Habend' et tenend' de me et hered' meis p'dicto Henrico et Alicie uxori sue, et heredibus de iis, exeuntibus, libere quiete et hereditarie in perpetuum—Reddendo annuatim mihi et heredibus meis unam rosam die Snc'ti. Johannis Baptist' pro omni servitio secta curie et seculari demanda ad me et ad heredes meos pertinent', salvo servitio debito dominis terrarum p'dictarum—Et ego Willms. et heredes mei warrantizabimus p'dictas terras cum omnibus suis pertinentiis et etiam decem solidos annui redditus dicto Henrico et Alicie uxori sue, et heredibus de iis

exeuntibus, contra omnes homines et feminas in perpetuum—et ut hæc mea donacio robur firmitatis in perpetuum obtineat presentem cartam sigilli mei impressione roboravi—His testibus, Domno Johane filio Philippi—Willmo. de Wasteneys—Philippo de Chetwynde militibus, Wm.\* de Ridware—Rogerio de Bisseston et multis aliis.

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INGESTRE DEED (c. 1300 A.D. ?).

Know all men &c. that I Philippa daughter of Richard de Falleywolle\* de Colton have given and granted and by this my deed confirmed to John called Broun of Colton his heirs and assigns &c., one acre and one rood of my arrable land in the territory of Colton in the field of *Homeleye*, which acre lies within the land of St. Thomas the martyr and the land of Sir John le Wasteneys, and extends at one end beyond the road leading from Colton towards Admaston, and the other end towards the land of Henry Griffyn—and the rood aforesaid lies in *Milneditch*† near the land of Richard Falleywolle,‡ and stretches on one side to Thikegreve (688, on plan)—To have and to hold by a yearly payment of one silver penny to the lord of the fee and his heirs—at the feast of St. Mary &c. These witnesses William Meverel vicar of Colwich, John son of Walter, John Stark, John Tuly, John Anderu, Wm. atte Asshe of Colton, Thomas de Dreggeton and others.

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\* Philip de Chetwynd, c. 1260 (?). Wm. de Ridware 1260 (?).

† i.e., Hamley mill-ditch.

‡ Falleywolle = modern "Fullwell or Fowell" (Nos. 649—661).

## INGESTRE DEED (1275 A.D.).

Sciunt presentes et futuri quod ego Henricus, filius Hugonis de Colton, dedi concessi et hac presenti carta mea confirmavi Aviciœ filicœ meœ, et heredibus suis de corpore suo legitime procreatis, quatuor acras terrœ meœ arrabilis regales jacentes in territorio de Coltone, in campo videlicet qui vocatur *Haselhurst juxta venellam* (i.e., the lane) *q ducit et extendit se inter terram Johannis de Morhay\** et dictum campum de *Haselhurst*, cujus unum caput abuttat super *boscum de Morhay*, et aliud super *Aschele-hay* (*ashleyhay*), dedi et concessi et confirmavi dicte Aviciœ filicœ meœ unam placeam terrœ quam emi de Ricardo filio Henrici de Fraxino (i.e., ash) jacentem in campo de *Homeley*, inter terram Johannis le Counter de Coltone, et terram Roberti Cradok, quœ continet octodecim seliones et unam foreram, et extendit de † *Astelmescroft* usque ad terram dicti Ricardi filii Henrici; et unam dimidiam acram terrœ jacentem super *Gildowe* intra terram Johannis Griffyn et terram quondam Hugonis le Bonde, et unam acram prati quam emi de Johanne Hereward quœ jacet in prato quod vocatur *le Sleeting* inter pratum meum ex una parte, et pratum Johannis Griffyn ex altera, et extendit se de la “*Fordoles*” Willelmi‡

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\* Haselhurst, Morhay, and Ashleyhay: these lay between the Parchfields and the extreme south-east corner of Colton bordered by the Trent.

† Astelmescroft = Ashton and Aston Croft. The changes this name has undergone are worthy of notice.

‡ William, the lord, cannot be William le Wasteney (for Sir John Wasteney attests this very deed). But William de Mavesyn, the lord of *Little Hay* manor—and the land in the



domini usque ad fossam *versus le Sondiford*, Habend' et tenend' omnia predicta tenementa, et terras cum omnibus suis undecunque pertinentiis de me et heredibus meis vel assignatis prædictæ Aviciæ filicæ meæ, et heredibus suis de corpore suo ut predictum est legitime procreatis, libere, quiete, solute, et integre, sine ullo retenemento, cum omnibus libertatibus, libris consuetudinibus, et commodis, et aziamentis, in boscis in planis aquis viis semitis piscariis exitibus et introitibus, et omnibus quibuscunque commoditatibus ad predictam villam de Coltone pertinentibus. Reddendo inde mihi et heredibus meis annuatim, vel meis assignatis, dicta Avicia filia mea et hered sui vel assignat unum denarium in festo natal' domini, tam pro omni servitio consuetudine exactione querela auxiliis, contributionibus, tallagiis, sectis curie et hundredi et pro omni re et demanda quæ de dictis tenementis quo cunque modo exigi poterint vel requiri &c., &c. (Reversion to the said Henry and his heirs) sealed by the aforesaid Henry in the presence of these witnesses. Sir Henry Mavesyn, Sir John Wasteneys Kts., Richard de Blithfield, William de puteo (Wells) Richard his brother, Master William, John Griffyn, William the Smith, John Geoffrey, John de Morhay, John son of Walter and many others. 23rd Ed. I. (1295 A.D.) The Sunday next after the feast of St. Eadmund King and Martyr.

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“Sleetings” is now represented by Lord Bagot’s field adjoining the Holmes. Fordoles = *Ford-meadow* (?)

## INGESTRE DEED (1275 A.D., 3 ED. 1).

To all Xtian people to whom these presents come, Alice daughter of William Belunone (?) of Colton have released and quit claimed for me and my heirs to Robert son of John son of Walter de Colton and his heirs, all claim or right which I now have in a certain burgage\* in the vill of Colton &c. In witness whereof I have hereto set my seal—In the presence of these witnesses. William lord of Colton, Henry de Calde, Walter of the same place and others—given at Colton, on the Sunday next after the feast of St. Michael—in the third year of King Edward.

## INGESTRE DEED (28 ED. 1, 1300 A.D.)

I Peter son of William son of Gilbert of Colton quit-claim and release, for myself and my heirs for ever, to Richard son of Simon de Hondsaere, and to Avice his wife, for a certain sum previously paid me, all my rights in rents &c., which I used to receive yearly from John son of Geoffrey and from Richard de Hondesaere, Christiana his wife and their heirs, given them by deed of William my father—These I give them to have and to hold freely to Richard, Avice and their heirs for ever—so that neither I Peter nor any of my heirs shall have any claim over it—usual warranty and seal—These witnesses, Robert de Colton, John son of Walter de Colton, John Moray (*i.e.*, Morhay) of Colton, Wm. son of Alexander of Handsaere, Richard son of Wm. *le Wryte* of Colton, and others—Done at Colton on the

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[\* Burgesses' rents are named in John de Caldwell's roll.]

Thursday next the feast of Pentecost — 28 Edward 1.

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GRESLEY DEED (c. 1285 ?).

Sciánt presentes et futuri quod ego Johannes, filius Hugonis de Colton, dedi, concessi, et presenti cartâ meâ confirmavi, Willielmo Wisse de Rugeley, et heredibus suis, pro servicio suo quatuor seliones terre in quodam forario et aliis pertinentiis, que quidem seliones jacent in territorio de Coltone apud Novam terram (Newland) inter terram Johannis le Wasteneys, et terram predicti Johannis, filii Hugonis de Colton, et extendunt se inter terram Willielmi Griffyn, et terram Petri le Bret de Colton, 'Tenend' &c.; Reddendo annuatim mihi et hered' meis unum obolum argenti ad Pascha pro omni servicio seculari, &c. Pro hac autem donacione, &c., dedit mihi predictus Willielmus decem solidos ad ingressum pre-manibus. In cujus rei (usual warranty). Hiis testibus; Willielmo de Puteo (Wells), de Rugeley, Ricardo de Puteo de eâdem, Henrico de Colton, Roberto filio Hugonis de Colton, Willielmo fabro de eâdem, Rogero de Stivinton de Colton, Ricardo filio Henrici de eâdem, et multis aliis.

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GRESLEY DEED 15 Ed. I. or Ed. 2. ? 1322 A.D.

Hœc indentura testatur quod dominus Willelmus de Gasteneys de Colton, miles, tradidit, et concessit Roberto de Hethcote totum tenementum suum de Colton, quod habuit ex dimissione Willelmi de Steventon in Colton, ad totam vitam ipsius Roberti, cum suis pertinentiis. Habendum et tenendum de

predicto domino Willelmo predicto Roberto ad totam vitam suam libere et in pace. Reddendo inde annuatim predicto domino Willelmo quatuor solidos argenti ad duos anni terminos; videlicet, ad festum annunciationis Beate Marie duos solidos, et ad festum Scti Michaelis duos solidos argenti, pro omnibus serviciis predicto domino Willelmo spectantibus. Et predictus dominus Willelmus et heredes sui, &c. (usual warranty) ita scilicet quod predictum tenementum predicto domino Willelmo et heredibus suis revertatur post decessum ipsius Roberti. In cujus rei testimonium predictus dominus Willelmus scripto predicto Roberto remanenti sigillum suum apposuit; ac predictus Robertus scripto hujus indenture predicto domino Willelmo remanenti sigillum suum apposuit. Hiis testibus; Willelmo Griffyn de Colton, Roberto de Littlehay de eâdem, Henrico de Caldewelle, Roberto filio Johannis filio Walteri, Galfrido ad fraxinum (Ash), et aliis. Dat' apud Colton die Jovis proximo ante festum annunciationis B. Marie Virginis: anno regni Regis Edwardi\* quinto decimo. (15 Ed. 1.)?

A small deed, seal white wax, man on horseback armed with a drawn sword.

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[13 Ed. 1.] (1285 A.D.)

(From the Leigh deeds, thro' Mr. Earwaker to  
Genrl. Wrottesley.)

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\* Has not "filii R. Ed." been omitted? For Sir *John* de Gasteneys was lord in 1287: and Rob. de Littlehay dates c. 1321 A.D.

Sciant presentes et futuri, quod ego Henricus filius Hulle de Coltonâ dedi, &c., Ricardo, filio Rogeri de Bissopeston (Bishton) clerico, et heredibus suis, totum pratum meum in prato de "Emedue" (Eye meadow, *i.e.* Island meadow) in villâ de Coltonâ, cum omnibus suis pertinentiis, quod quidem pratum vocatur "le More," jacens inter pratum Henrici de Colton et pratum Petri le Bret; habendum, &c. Hiis testibus, Henrico filio Hugonis de Colton, Ricardo domino de Blythefeld, Roberto de Wolselegâ, Adâ de Colwych, Thoma Grym, Johanne Gryffyn de Coltona, Willelmo dicto le Jovene seynur, Johanne filio Ade de Colwych, Ricardo filio Roberti de Wolselega, Roberto filio Henrici de Coltona, Willelmo ad Fraxinum (Ash) de Coltona, Ricardo super le Toft de Bissopeston, Ricardo Above-the-way, de eâdem, et aliis. Datum apud Colton, die veneris proximo post festum Sancti Augustini; anno regni Regis Edwardi, filii Regis Henrici, tertio decimo. (1285 A.D.)

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STOWE MSS. (170) *B. Museum.* (c. 1285 – 1300 ?).

Sciant p, et, f, quod ego Johannes, filius Ricardi de Le, in Eadmunstun (Admaston) dedi, concessi, &c., Willielmo filio Felucie de Wolseleg', quatuor seliones cum capitali selione continente in se longitudinem decem selionum in feodo de Colton; jacentes inter terram meam, et terram dicti Willielmi in latitudine, et extendentes a predictâ selione capitali usque ad terram dicti Willielmi. Habend' et tenend' de me et hœr' meis vel assignatis, vel cuicunque vendere, dare, legare, vel assignare

voluerit, libere, quiete, &c.; exceptis viris religiosis, et Judæis. Reddendo mihi annuatim et her' meis, ipse, et heredes sui, unum denarium die annunciationis Sancte Marie pro omni servicio seculari, exactione, et secta curie et demanda, salvo forinseco. Pro hac autem donacione et hujus carte mee confirmacione dictus Willelmus mihi dedit viginti et quatuor solidos ad ingressum. Et ego (usual warranty); In cujus rei, &c. Hiis testibus, Edmundo de Le, Roberto de Le, Roberto de Wolseleg', Johanne, filio Walteri de Colton, Adâ de Colwiz, et multis aliis. (No date) small green seal.

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34 Ed. 1.

William atte Ash of Colton gives to Richard Hobet one selion of land lying in Homeley, near the land which Wm. Hobet holds of me in the same field to have and to hold the same of the chief lord of the fee by the usual service paying yearly one farthing [quarantem?] on the feast of the Annunciation of the B. Virgin—the usual warranty and signature—Witnesses, William son of [worm eaten away] the Smith, John de Morhay, Richard Tenerey and others—done at Colton on the Sunday next after the feast of St. Chad in the year mcccvi. (1306 A.D.)

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BLITHFIELD DEED.

(undated, but probably late Ed. 1.)

I William called the 'Clerk,' son of Robert de Acmundeston, give to William the elder my son, and to John his brother, five selions of land situated in the fee of Colton, between the land of William de



Chetewynde on the one side, and that of Robert de Slyndon on the other, and they extend super le *chappellcroft*\*—and two selions of land lying in the field of *Hertewalle*, above the *Stockene*, near the land of Richard Gamel—and three selions lying in *mill field*,† of which two are situated between the land of Richard lord of Blithfeld and the land formerly belonging to Stephen the Smith of Blithfeld—and the 3rd lies within the croft formerly the property of William Uyat (Wyat ?) To have and to hold of the chief lords, &c. paying yearly to Sir William le Wasteney at Mchms two pence, and to the Lord of Blithfeld two pence halfpenny, in lieu of all service. And if William the elder die without heirs the land is to remain to his brother John, and if John die, and leave no heirs, then William is to have it for ever. But if both die without heirs, it is to pass to their brother Thomas, and if Thomas die without heirs, then to his brother William the younger—These witnesses Richard lord of Blithfeld, William de Chetewynde, Adam his brother, John de Stivinton, Richard de Woleston and many more.

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BLITHFIELD DEED. 1312 A.D.—5 Ed. 2.

William son of Odo de Morton grants to Richard Gamel of Blithfeld and to Xtiana his wife their heirs and assigns seven selions . . . in the fee of Colton lying in *Brokescroft*, within the land of Robert le Broke on the one side, above the croft

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\* Chapellcroft, near Chapell flatts ? A name possibly connected with the former chapel at St. Stephen's Hill.

† Mill-field = Hamley Mill (?)

of William le Broke, to have and to hold to the aforesaid Richard Xtiana and their heirs freely &c., and for this grant they gave him a sum of money down—usual warranty and signature—These witnesses, Richard lord of Blithfeld, Richard Sweyn of Blithfield, Richard de Wollaston, William Cradok of Admaston, Ralph de Hampton and many more—given at Colton on the Sunday in the feast of St. Timothy, A.D. 1312.—In the fifth year of the reign of King Edward son of Edward.

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BLITHFIELD. 8 Ed. 2.—1315 A.D.

Richard son of Robert Colet of *Lenenlond*\* to Richard the Shepherd of Blithfield gives two pieces of land with their appurtenances in Colton, of which one lies between the land of William son of Ralph and that of John son of Nicholas (?) of Blithbury—abutting† on the meadow of the aforesaid Richard called the *Brodeholm*, and the other end abutting on the land of William son of Ralph.

And the other piece lies between the land of John Chichehoc and that of Roger Denys, abutting on the land of William son of Ralph & on that of Roger Denys. To have & to hold &c—these witnesses Richard lord of Blithfield—Ralph de Hampton Robert son of John son of Walter de Colton—

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\* “*Lenenlond*.” Is this the land inclosed by Mere lane?

† In a terrier, or description of land, the sides on the breadth are said to be “*adjacentes*,” *i.e.*, lying or bordering—and the ends only in length “*abuttantes*,” or bounding. (“*Kennet’s Glossary*.”)

Geoffrey at Asse (Ash) of Colton—Richard Julian of Lenenlond—Henry Cheichok, and many more—given at Lenenland—on the tuesday next after the feast of St Dunstan, in the eighth year of King Edward son of Edward—

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BLITHFIELD DEED. 8 Ed. 2—1315 A.D.

Emma who was the wife of Robert Colet\* of Lenenlond quit claims and leases to Richard the Shepherd of Blithfield all her rights, in virtue of her dower, in two pieces of land which Richard has of the gift and feofment of Richard her brother in Colton—Witnesses Richard lord of Blithfield and many more—given at Lenenlond, on the tuesday next after the feast of St. Barnabas the Apostle, in the eighth year of King Edward 2. —————

BLITHFIELD DEED. 8 Ed. 2. 1315 A.D.

This is the agreement made between Sir Ancelm le Mareschal on the one part, and Master Robert de Bromley and Felicia his wife on the other—namely the aforesaid Sir Ancelm gives and grants to Robert and Felicia two acres of arable land in the waste of Sir Ancelm on the one part and that of John Andrew on the other—To have and to hold the aforesaid two acres to Robert and Felicia for their life time, and after their decease to Ermentrude their Daughter and her heirs—paying yearly to Sir Ancelm and his heirs eight silver pennies at Mchms and Easter—And if Ermentrude chance to die without

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\* Colett flats occurs in a deed, possibly identical with the modern Crabtree Flatt (?)

heirs of her body, then the two acres are to revert to the heirs of Robert and Felicia, but if they die and leave no heirs of their body then the land is to go back to Sir Ancelm & his heirs—And for this grant Robert and Felicia quit claimed and released to Ancelm a “common of pasture” in the Wilderley lands of Anselm; reserving to themselves a certain pasture right there in the open time of the Common (*tempore post fena et blada inde levata et asportata* (*i.e.*, after the crops had been cut and carried). Signed before these witnesses Sir William de Wasteney Kt.\*—William le Llouerd—William Griffin—Master Richard Tenery—Robert de Hampton, and others—At Colton in the feast of the beheading of St. John the Baptist. 8 Ed. 2.

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A.D. 1316. 9 Ed. 2.

Pateat omnibus quod die Dmnica juxta post festum Sancti Augustini Epis anno dom. mcccxvi, et anno regni regis Edwardi fil' regis Ed' nono, inter Ricardum filium Henrici Holle de Colton ex parte una et Henricm de Coldewelle ex altera, convent' in hunc modum, quod p'dictus Ricardus tradidit et ad terminum viginti quatuor annorum dimisit p'fato Henrico unam rodam terre regale (sic) de wasto dom' Anselmi in Colton jacentem in quodam loco qui vocatur Wilderlee, 'inter terram Johannis le Counter ex parte una et terram Roberti Wymar ex

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\* The signature of William le Louerd is misleading—as the name was held, we believe, by two (if not by three) owners of Little Hay manor in succession.

parte altera, et unum capud abuttat super terram Domi Anselmi et aliud super terram magistri Ricardi Tenerey (sic).

Habend' et tenend' p'dicto Henrico et heredibus suis sive assignatis suis libere quiete et in pace de me et heredibus meis usque ad terminum viginti annorum—Reddendo Dno Anselmo Marescallo et heredibus unum denarium ad fest' Sancti Michâel' et Pasch' (here follow the usual warranty and signature) His testibus, Roberto fil' Hugonis fil' Walteri—Galfrido ad Fraxin'—Henrico Coleman, Wmo. Ffabro—Wmo. Maynard, et multis aliis—Datum apud Colton anno et die supr' dict'

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BLITHFIELD DEED. 9 Ed. 2.—1315 A.D.

Roger Denys of Blithbury gives to Richard the shepherd of Blithfield for a certain sum to him already paid, two selions of arable land, situated in the open field called the '*over-rudyng*'\* at the Newlands, in width within the land of Richard aforesaid on the one side and the high road† which

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\* Was the open field cultivated in three portions (or rydings, *v.* division of Yorkshire) because tilled on the common three-field system, *i.e.*, one part fallow, one for winter ploughing, one for spring ploughing (?). *Over, i.e., upper.*

Nos. 11 and 1, *v.* plan, preserve the name *over* in *over-croft* and *over-meadow*.

† The high road in question must be the present bridle path at the far end of Bowling Alley or Mere Lane, formerly the high road to Blithfield—a similar instance occurs, where a St. Thomas' Charter describes the bridle road from Blithfield by Oak Fields to Morton—as formerly the King's highway.

leads from Newlands to Blithfield on the other—and it stretches lengthways from the land of William son of Ralph the miller of Blithbury to the land of the aforesaid Richard—To have and to hold these 2 selions to Richard and his heirs for ever of the chief lords of the fee—(warranty and seal). These witnesses—Robert de Hampton, Richard lord of Blithfield, Richard Julian of Newlond, John del Barr of Blithbury (Hadley-gate?) Hugh de Smalrys\* of the same and others—Done at Newlond on the Thursday next after Palm Sunday 9 Ed. 2.

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10 Ed. 2. 1317 A.D. BLITHFIELD DEED.

Agreement made on the Thursday in the feast of St. Thomas, 10 Ed. 2, between William son of Ralph of the Newlonds on the one side and William le Wys of Blithbury on the other—William son of Ralph grants to William le Wys for his life, for a sum of money, an acre of land in Colton in the Newlands, situated between the land of the *nuns of Blithbury*† and the land of Richard Geoffrey of Colton, and extending in length from the King's highway leading from Blithbury to Colton to the land of Thomas le Rowe, and Henry Abell, for payment of two pence a year at Mems. and at the Annunciation—These witnesses. Richard Julian of

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\* The "Smalrys" family come from "Smallrise" in Sandon Parish.

† St. Giles' Nunnery, suppressed by Wolsey; the path connecting it with the high road to Blithford is still known as "the nun's walk."



Newlond, Hugh Ffranceys, Richard Colet, William his brother, Roger Denys, and others. Executed at the Newlands in the year aforesaid.

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BLITHFIELD DEED. 14 Ed. 2. (The writing of this deed is peculiarly small and fine.)

Henry de Smethewyk quit claims and releases to Thomas son of Robert de Hampton his right in one half acre of land in Colton, lying in Wilderleye, within the land of Richard Dymmok on the one side & that of Stephen Pryors\* on the other. (The usual warranty & signature)—Witnesses. Richard Lord of Blithfield—Ralph de Hampton—Robert de Harleye, Richard de Wolaston of Admaston & others, done at Admaston on the Sunday next before the feast of Xmas? 14—Ed. 2. 1321 A.D.

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10 Ed. 2. 1317 A.D. (Deed is very much injured and discoloured.)

Felicia Fallinchewolle of Colton gives to Richard Hobet of Colton three selions of land in a certain piece of ground in Homeleye Field within the land of John Andrew and that of Richard Hobet aforesaid, and it extends from the land of Anselm le Mareschal to the land of William del —(obliterated). Witnesses names. William le Llouerd de Luttlehay—William Griffin—Geoffrey (obliterated) Coleman—Done at Colton on the day next after the feast of St. James.

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\* Pryors or *atte* Pryors: from the Prior of *St. Thomas*, the owner of the land in the name of the community.

## 15 Ed. 2. BLITHFIELD DEED—(1322 A.D.)

Henry de Morhay grants to Richard Lord of Blithfield twelve pence annual rent which William son of William the Smith was wont to pay for half his messuage in Colton—Witnesses William Griffin de Colton—Ralph de Hampton—Robert de Hampton—Henry de Caldewell—Robert son of John son of Walter de Colton and others. Executed at Colton on the thursday in the week (?) of Pentecost. 15 Ed. 2.

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## 15 Ed. 2. (1322 A.D.)

Agreement by which Anselm le Mareschal grants to Master Robert de Bromley two acres of arable land in his waste, bounded on one side by John Andreu's land—for payment of 8 silver pennies yearly, at Michms and Easter, and after his death to Thomas son of Master Robert de Bromley and his heirs on the same terms, but failing heirs by him it is to revert to Anselm le Mareschal and his heirs—and for this grant Master R de Bromley gave to Anselm a certain pasture lying in Anselm's land in Wilderley, &c. Witnesses Sir William de Wasteney.\* Robert le Llouerd. William Griffyn. Richard de Blithfield. Robert de Hampton and others—done at Colton on the Sunday next after the feast of St. Michael. 15 Ed. 2.

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## Grant of the Manor of Littlehay.

## 15 Ed. 2. (1322 A.D.)

Sciant presentes et futuri quod ego *Robts fil'*

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\* Robert le Llouerd, *i.e.*, the lord of "Little Hay" Manor.

*Willmi le Younge Llouerd de Luttlehay*, dedi, concessi et hac presenti carta mea confirmavi Ricardo dom de Blithfield et Cecilie uxori ejus *quartam partem manerii de Colton cum pertinentiis*—Habend' et tenend' p'dictam quartam partem manerii p'dicti Ricardo et Cecilie et heredibus de capitalibus doms feodi p servicia inde debita et consueta libere, quiete, et in pace, in perpetuum (here follow the usual warranty and seal) His testibus—Domno Wmo de Wasteneys—Roberto Mauvesyn—Wmo Griffin de Colton, Roberto de Hampton, Rado de Hampton, Johne domño de Bromley Bagot—Roberto fil' Walteri de Colton et aliis—datum apud Colton die Lune juxta post festum Scti Johannis ante portam Latinam—anno regni regis Ed' fil' regis Edwardi quinto decimo.

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#### 16 Ed. 2. BLITHFIELD DEED.

Felicia formerly wife of Master Robert de Bromley releases and quit-claims to Thomas son of Robert de Hampton all her right in lands and tenements formerly her husband's property in Colton—Witnesses Richard de Blithfield, Robert de Harleye, Ralph de Hampton, &c.—Given at Drengeton on the Sunday next after the feast of Saint Cedde (Chad) 16 Ed. 2.

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#### 16 Ed. 2. BLITHFIELD DEED. (1323 A.D.)

Margery widow of John de Hampton of Edmundston (Admaston) grants to Richard Gamel of Blithfield one acre of arable land lying in Wilderleye in the fee of Colton, in width between the land

of Henry Coleman on the one side, and that of Thomas de Hampton on the other—and she further gives him one rood of land lying near that of Hugh de Hampton, for a lease of four years—Witnesses Richard Wymar, Ralph de Hampton, John Anderu, Wm. Cradok. Done at Colton 16 Ed. 2.

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BLITHFIELD DEED. 1324 A.D. 17 Ed. 2.

17. Ed. 2. I William le Wys of Blithbury give to Robert son of John de Colton that acre of land &c., in Colton which I have from William son of Ralph of the Newlands, in the field called the Newelond, situated between the land of the Prioress of Blithbury on the one side and that of Thomas Dymok on the other, and one end abuts on the lane leading to Blythe as far as the end of my way (vie.) To have and to hold of the chief lords of the fee; and after Robert's death it is to go to Richard his son, and his heirs, but if he die without heirs, then to the right heirs of Robert son of John—Witnessed by William Griffen of Colton, Ralph de Hampton, Richard de Falde of Bromleye, Geoffrey atte Ashe of Colton, Henry de Coldwell, &c.—done at Colton on the tuesday next after the feast of Saint Dionysius. 17 Ed. 2. (1324 A.D.)

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18 Ed. 2. (1325 A.D.)

William Cradok of Admaston gives to Alice daughter of John Rose de Styvington five selions of arable land in Colton in the field of Homeleye, in length between my land on the one side, and that of Richard Tenery on the other, and stretching in

length from that of Robert de Hampton to the clearing or reclaimed land (assartum) of Astelmscroft—Witnesses John de Styvington, John son of Stephen of the same place, Richard de Wolaston chaplain, Robert atte Brook, Nicholas Robyn and others—at Colton on the eve of the feast of St. John Baptist, mcccxxv. (18 Ed. 2.)

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13 Ed. 2. BLITHFIELD DEED.

Robert de Littulhay acknowledges himself and his heirs to be bound to Richard Lord of Blithfield in the sum of £20 of silver for . . . in lands and meadows in Colton; to be paid to him or to his attorney at Blithfield, on Xmas day next; Done at Blithfield on the tuesday next after the feast of St. James. 16 Ed. 2. —

17 Ed. 2. (1324 A.D.)

William son of Ralph of the Newelond gives to Robert son of John de Colton one acre in Colton lying in the open field called the Newelonde—between the land of Geoffrey atte Asshe on the one side and that of Adam the Smith on the other, for his life, and after his death to John his son or failing his heirs after his death, then to the right heirs of John son of Robert for ever (usual warranty and seal). Witnesses, William Griffin de Colton, Ralph de Hampton, Richard de Falde de Bromley, Geoffrey atte Asshe of Colton, Henry de Caldwell of Colton and others—Done at Colton on the tuesday next after the feast of Saint Dionysius. 17 Ed. 2.

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## 19 Ed. 2. (1326 A.D.)

Know all men &c., that I William son of Ralph the Miller of the Newelonds have given to Robert son of John, son of Walter de Colton, one acre of land in Colton situated at the Newelonds, between the land of William son of Roger le Rowe and that of Ralph brother of the said William, in width, and between the land of the aforesaid William son of Ralph and the hendlone (?) in length—To have and to hold &c., for ever—and after Robert's death I will that it go to Richard his son, (the usual warranty and seal) Witnesses, Richard Julian, Hugh Ffranceys, Richard Colet, Richard of the Newelond, Roger Denys, William Lleuwys and others. Done at Colton on the wednesday next after the feast of St. Michael the Archangel—19 Ed. 2.

## 19 Ed. 2. BLITHFIELD DEED. (1326 A.D.)

Indentura ista testatur quod Ricardus doms. de Blithefield, qui habuit statum (the estate) Roberti de Hampton in toto bosco qui vocatur Luttelhay in Colton, concessit Roberto de Luttelhay totum p'dictum boscum cum pertinentiis: ita videlicet quod dictus Robertus de Luttelhay capiat et habeat sine contradictione p'dicti Ricardi aut alicujus in dicto bosco herbagium, pessonam,\* et rationabil' estoveria sua ad edificand', hayas claudendas et ad comburend' sufficienter sine wasta ad totam vitam suam et si contingat quod detus Robertus de Luttlehay de dicto

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\* Pessona (or Paisso), *i.e.*, "pastio porcorum in silvis, glandes." Du Cange-glossary.



bosco aliquod vast' fecerit, vel dictum boscum seu partem illius alicui dimiserit vel alienaverit, ex tunc totum p'dictum boscum et omnia alia proficua amittat. Et liceat p'dicto Ricardo et heredibus suis in toto p'dicto bosco intrare et rehabere sine contradictione p'dict Roberti de Luttlehay.

In cujus rei testimonium &c. His testibus. Wmo. Griffen de Colton, Rado de Hampton—Robto fil' Johan de Colton, Reginaldo de Gasteneys Galfrido atte Asshe de Colton et aliis. Datum apud Colton die dom̃ica prox' post fest' Sancti Petri in Cathedra, anno regni regis Ed' fil regis Ed' decimo nono.

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2 Ed. 3. GRESLEY CHARTULARY. (1329 A.D.)

Monsieur Thomas de Gastineys, chevalier, seigneur de Colton, et Johanne sa feme a Johan de Blythfield et a Margaret sa feme quatre acres et demi de terre de Colton gysant en "la New-lond," et Johan et Margaret une rose a dit Thomas come seigneur de fee &c. (2 Ed. 3).

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[Deed very discoloured and faint.]

4 Ed. 3. (1331 A.D.)

Henry de Caldewell gives to Richard son of Udo de Hundeston one rood of land in the fee of Colton on a ten years' lease—the said rood lying in the field called 'Wilderley' between the land of Robert (?) de Hampton and that of John le Counter—to commence from friday in feast of St. Lawrence the martyr 4 Ed. 3. Signed in the presence of Richard Lord of Blithfield, Robert son

of John de Colton, Henry Colmon of Colton, Geoffrey at Ashe of Colton—Done at Colton in the year above mentioned.

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8 Ed. 3. 1335 A.D.

Adam called Hobet of Colton gives to Wm. called Craddok of Styvinton and to Margery his wife, the moiety of a piece of meadow at the Newlands, lying in breadth between the land of John Hobet and the course of the river Blithe, and stretching from the meadow of Wm. son of Ralph up to the aforesaid course of the Blithe—To have and to hold &c. with free ingress and egress, and other rights to him and his wife for ever—usual warranty and seal—Witnesses Wm. Griffin de Colton, Robert son of John son of Walter de Colton, Richard Julian, Wm. son of Ralph de Newlond, Richard Colet of Blithbury—Done at Colton on tuesday in the feast of St. Lucy 8 Ed. 3.

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(W. CHETWYND'S MSS.) c. 1325 (?).

*Hoc indentura testatur quod Ricardus, dominus de Blithfield, concessit et vendidit Roberto de Littlehay, totumcroftum existent' in terris et pratis, que et quas habuit de dono dicti Roberti in Colton pro viginti libris argenti—Insuper predictus Ricardus concessit et dimisit predicto Roberto totum messuagium,\* boscum, et terram, que habuit de dono predicti Roberti: et pro ista concessione et dimissione predictus Robertus concessit dicto Ricardo quod venit coram Justiciariis Domini Regis ad cognoscend' et levandum finem. (v. subsequent deed 1329 A.D.)*

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\* *ie.*, Littlehay.

## (261) GRESLEY DEED (1344 A.D.) 16 Ed. 3.

Sciant presentes et futuri quod Ego Margeria\* de Gresleye concessi et confirmavi Johanni Wymar de Morton, servienti meo, totam illam terram cum pertinentiis in Colton, apud le Newelond, quam habui de dono et feoffmento Nicholai de Chaveleye; habend' et tenend' predictam terram cum pertinentiis predicto Johanni et heredibus suis de capitali domino feodi per servicia consueta in perpetuum; pro hac autem concessione &c. dedit mihi quandam summam pecunie premanibus.

In cujus rei, &c. Hiis testibus, Nicholao de Chaveleye, de Blithbury, Ricardo Colet del Newelond, Edmundo de Gresleye juniore, et aliis. Datum apud le Newelond in festo Sancti Gregorii Pape anno regni R. Edwardi tercii post conquestum sexto decimo. (16. Ed. 3.) Small seal, white wax. (3 lozenge-shaped shields meeting in the centre: one of them Gresley, the second "Paly wavy of 6," the third bearing (very indistinctly) 6 annulets 2, 3, and 1.)

## 1333 A.D. 6 Ed. 3.

Hugh de Tonsal to Robert le Broke of Admaston and John his eldest son gives four acres in Colton — 3 of which lie in Hameley field, between the land of Robert Alynor and that of Wm. Botte of Admaston,

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\* Margery Gresley was the daughter of Sir John Vernon, Kt. and wife of Sir Geoffrey Gresley.

A previous grant exists in the Gresley chartulary, dated 8 Ed. 3, from this Margaret Gresley to Matilda, widow of Richard Wymer; sealed with the same arms.

and they abut on the land of Wm. le Tornour of Colton—and *the 4th acre lies also in Homleye*, between the land of Wm. Griffyn of Colton and that of Henry at Asshe of Colton, and abuts on the land of John Peres of Colton—These lands are to pass to Robert and John for their lives—at a rent of 2s. 4d. in silver yearly—the usual warranty and seal—Witnesses, Robert son of John de Colton, Henry Colemon, Geoffrey at Asshe, Wm. Cradock of Admaston, John Andrew of the same, done at Colton on tuesday in the eve of St John Baptist 6 Ed. 3.

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14 Ed. 3. 1341 A.D.

I William called the shepherde of Newlond give to John son of John Chechhok of Newlond one curtilage with a certain house standing on it in Colton at the Newlond,\* between the messuage of Richard Cote del Newlond and the land of Nicholas le Clerke of Blithbury, and it abuts above the land of Henry le Carter, which house and curtilage I had of the gift and feoffmont of Sibill and of Henry son of Hugh Clechhok of Newland and Henry called the Carter of Newlond—To have and to hold of the chief Lord of the fee for ever—Witnesses, Richard Colet of Newland, Robert Julian of Newland, Richard Clechhoke, Wm. son of Wm. son of Mdi del Newland, Nicholas le Clerk of Blithbury and others. Done at Newland on thursday next before

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\* There seem to have been more houses, and a larger population at the Newlands then than we have now.

the feast of the Translation of St. Thomas the Martyr 14 Ed. 3. ———

12. Ed. 3. 1339 A.D.

I Henry de Smethewick Clerk, dwelling at La Lee, give to Wm. called Cradok, dwelling at Styvinton, and to Margery his wife, five selions of arable land in Colton—of which three lie in the ‘Nether Lee croft,’ in breadth between my land and that of Adam de Chetewynde—and stretching from the croft of Robert le Brock as far as Wildeslegh—and the other two selions lie in Over Lee croft, from the high road near *Hay (?)* as far as the open field called Wilderesley—To hold of chief Lords for ever—Witnesses, John son of Richard Lord of Blithfeld, Richard son of Robert de Hampton, Robt. son of Walter de Colton, Robert Alinor of Colton, Geoffrey atte Asshe—Done at La Lee in the feast of St. Mary Magdalene 12 Ed. 3.

14. Ed. 3. 1341. A.D.

John son of Richard Julian of Newland gives to Robert his brother all rights and lands which formerly belonged to Richard in Colton, in the Newlonds—Witnesses, William Griffen of Colton, Robert son of John, Richard Colet, Thomas de Ffalde—Done at Colton on monday next after Whitsunday. 14. Ed. 3.

c. 1322 (?)

I Hugh le Colier de Admaston give to Margery my younger daughter  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre of land in Colton, situated between the land of John lord of Weston

on the one side, and that of Richard de Wolaston on the other. These witnesses Ralph and Robert de Hampton, Robert de Berleye, Richard de Wolaston, Robert de Saperton and others.

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16. Ed. 3. 1343. A.D.

Robert son of Richard de Newlond enfeoffs Adam Sygell of Bromley Abbats in five selions of land and one furrow of arable land lying at the Newlonds in the fee of Colton—but the land is to return to Robert on payment of the sum of 13s. 4d. in silver—to which agreement Adam sets his seal, in the presence of these witnesses—Nicholas de Cheveley of Blithbury, Wm. le Rede of Blithbury, John de Sutton of Bromley—Done at the Newlonds on the tuesday next before the feast of St. Mark the Evangelist. 16 Ed. 3. (In this deed some portion' has been omitted.)

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17 Ed. 3.

I William son of Ralph de Newland have give and confirmed to John my son one piece of land in Colton, lying at the Newlands, between the highway which leads from Colton towards Bromley (the centre of the last word has been obliterated, but this is evidently the reading) and my premises—to have and to hold of the chief lords of the fee for ever—usual signature &c.—these witnesses, Robert del Newlond, Henry le Carter, Thomas de Benteley, Richard Colet—done at Colton on tuesday next before the feast of St. Matthew, the Apostle and Evangelist. 17. Ed. 3—(1344 A.D.)



## 20 Ed. 3. (1347)

I John son of Wm. son of Ralph de Newland give and confirm to John son of Richard Gylian (Julian) of Newland, one piece of land at Newland in Colton lying in width between the high way leading to Bromley on one side and the land of Wm. Coleman on the other—and it abuts on the premises of William my father. To have and to hold of the chief lord for ever—Signature &c. as usual—In the presence of these witnesses, William Coleman, of Colton, Henry le Carter, of Blithbury, Richard Colet, of Newlond, Robert Gylian, Richard Clechok. Done at Newlond, on Sunday next after the feast of the Purification of the B.V. Mary, 20 Ed. 3.

## 20 Ed. 3. 1347 A.D.

John, son of Hugh de Hampton, conveys to William Craddock, of Eadmundeston, and Margery, his wife, 9 selions, and something more in \**Astelmes-crofts*, in the fee of Colton, for a term of eight years, Sealed &c., as usual, in the presence of Richard de Woleston, chaplain, William Botte de Admaston, Thomas Craddok, and others. Done at Admaston, on the Sunday next before the feast of St. Lawrence, the Martyr, 20 Ed. 3

## 21 Ed. 3. 1348 A.D.

John le Baxter, (*i.e.*, Baker,) of Colton, the elder, gives to Richard, son of Udo de Admaston, one rood of land in Wilderley, situated between the land of

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\* Probably the *Aston* croft and *Ashton* croft of a later period—adjoining Blithfield parish.

Dmñs. Anselm le Mareschal, and that of John Dykesone, for a term of 22 years next ensuing (to commence at Michaelmas, 21 Ed. 3), signed as usual in the presence of William Maynard de Colton, John Hobet, Adam Atte Asshe, of Colton, John Dykeson, Thomas Craddok, of Admaston. Done at Admaston in the above-named yeare.

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(268) GRESLEY DEED. (1345 A.D.) 19 Ed. 3.

Grant and sale by Humphrey Hastang, Archdeacon of Coventry, to William de Bromley, his clerk, of all his goods and chattels in all his tenements, which he acquired by grant and feoffment from Robert son of John, son of Walter de Colton, in the fee of Colton, Morton, Heywode, and Bishton—"Datum apud Colton," morning after the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, 24 June (19 Ed. 3) 1345 A.D.—With small official seal.

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(7925.) PHILIPPS MSS. 17 Ed. 3 (1344 A.D.)

Sciant presentes et futuri quod ego, Ricardus de Wollaston, capellanus, dedi, concessi &c., Thome Cradock de Admundeston, et Margerie filie Thome de Hampton, uxori sue, et heredibus de corporibus predictorum Thome et Margerie exeuntibus, totam illam dimidiam virgatam terre cum pertinentiis in Colton, cum domibus, et gardinis, et curtilagiis, predict' dimid' virgate terre adjacentibus, quam et quas prius habui de dono et feoffmento predicti Thome Cradock in eadem, Habend' et tenend', &c., predictis Thome et Margerie et heredibus &c., de capitalibus dominis feodi per servicia que ad predictam terram pertinent

(warranty and seal); Hiis testibus, Ricardo, domino de Blythfeld, Roberto filio Johannis de Colton, Thomā de Hampton, Ricardo de Hampton, Johanne filio Johannis de Hampton, et aliis; Datum apud Admundeston juxta Blithfeld die mercurii proxima ante Festum Sancti Valentini, anno regni Regis Edwardi tercii post conquestum septimo decimo (1344 A.D.)

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PHILIPPS MSS. (1352 A.D.) 25 Ed. 3.

Sciant presentes et futuri quod ego Robertus, filius Ricardi de Stivyngton, dedi &c., Willielmo, filio Nicholai Robyn de Admundeston, heredibus vel assignatis suis, unam selionem terre cum pertinentiis in feodo de Colton, jacentem in "Harte-Wallefeld," inter terram Thome Cradock de Styvyngton,\* ex parte unā et terram Johannis, filie Johannis de Hampton, ex parte alterā, et abuttat super foreram quam Johannes dominus de Blithfeld tenet (warranty and seal) Hiis testibus Johanne de Stivyngton, Johanne filio Johannis de Hampton, Ricardo filio Johannis, filio Hugonis de Hampton, Johanne le Brok de Admundeston, Willielmo le Brok de Admundeston, et aliis. Datum apud Admundeston. die dominicā proximā post festum Sancti Ambrosii, et in festum ramis palmarum (25 Ed. 3).

*April. 1351.*

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(284) GRESLEY DEEDS. 26 Ed. 3. (1353 A.D.)

Placita apud Westm. coram J. de Stonore, et sociis ejus, Justiciariis domini Regis de Banco a die S.

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\* Called de Admaston in 1344 deed—which goes to confirm the identity of Stivyngton with Stephen's Hill ?

Trinitatis in XV. dies amo regni Edwardi Regis Anglie tercii a conquestu, vicesimo sexto; et regni sui Francie tercio decimo.

(Staff.) Johannes de Gresleye, chivaler, et Johanna uxor ejus, per Rogerum de Gresleye attornatum suum ob(tulit) se quarto die versus Henricum de Ruggeleye, de placito unius molendini\* cum pertinenciis in Colton, quod clamaverunt ut jus ipsius Johanne per breve Regis “quare cessavit &c.” Et ipse non venit per biennium; et alias fecit defaltam hic scilicet a die Sancti Hillari in XV. dies proximos preteritos postquam summonit’, &c. Ita quod tunc prec(eptum) fuit vice(comiti) quod caperet predictum molendinum in manum domini Regis et diem, &c. Et quod summon’ eum quod esset hic ad lune diem scilicet a die Sancte Trinitatis in XV dies tunc proxim(os) sequentes &c. Et Vicecomes modo testatur diem capcionis, et quod sum’ &c. Ideo consid(eratum) est quod predicti Johannes et Johanna reciperent inde seisinam suam, versus eum, per defaltam &c., et idem Henricus in misericordiâ.

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21 Ed. 3. 1348 A.D.

I, Roger Alienor, give to John Atte Brok, the elder, one curtilage, with the croft adjacent extending in length from the high road, as far as the † ‘*Hokfield*,’ and one acre of land lying in Wilderesley, which I bought of Adam Brown, and two

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\* The Mill in question is the Trent water mill of Domesday Survey. (This trial has been already noticed.)

† Hokfield = Higgfield (No. 10 on plan ?)

selions in Homeley, lying between the land of Sir Thomas de Wasteneys, on the one side, and that of William de Bromley on the other. I have also given John Atte Brok, half an acre of land in *Hartewallesfeld*,\* which abuts on the road leading towards Middlehay. And I have also given him half an acre in Hertwallesfeld, called the *Honggyng half acre*, and likewise two butts of land lying above the *Croftes*, between the land of the Lord of Blithfield, and stretching above the holding of Wm. Cradok, of Styvinton. To have and to hold of the chief Lord of the fee for ever—usual warranty and signature. In the presence of these witnesses—Robert Alienor, of Colton, William, son of Wm. Clerk, John de Hampton, and others, done at Admaston on the Friday, in the feast of St. Lawrence, 21 Ed. 3.

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22 Ed. 3. 1349 A.D.

I, Richard Coleman, of Colton, give to Richard, son of John Lord of Blithfeld, and his heirs: one acre of arable land lying in the field called "*Mulnewardefeld*," between the land of Wm. Colman, and that of Robert Julian, in width, and it extends in length from the land of Sir Thomas de Gasteney's, to the lane (venellam) called "*the Walschemoxne's lane*."† To have and to hold quietly, &c., of the

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\* Hartewallesfield, was this situated near Hunger hill (*i.e.*) Sherra Cop lane, near the Blithfield road?

† The Welshman's Lane—from Rob. Julian's name and Ric de Newlands appears to have been on the Newlands side of Colton. The modern "Degge's leasow" is also known as "mill ditch"—

chief lords of the fee by the wonted services. Signed, &c., before these witnesses—William le Smyth, of Colton, Robert Julian, of Newlond, Richard de Newlond. Done at Colton, on the Thursday next, before the feast of St. Dunstan, 22

October 1348

Ed. 3 (1349 A.D.)

22 Ed. 3. 1349 A.D.

I, Richard, son of Robert de Hampton, give and confirm to John, son of Robert del Brok de Eadmundeston, one piece of meadow and pasture, with its hedges and ditches, &c., in Colton, which piece is called *Thikkegreve* (No. 688), and lies in Hamley field, between the land of Adam, son of Geoffrey Atte [H]ash, which is also called Thickgreve, and it abuts on the land of Anselm le Mareschal, and that of Eleanor Gryffen\* on the one side, and the *rough* (brueram) land on the other. To have and to hold for ever of the chief Lord of the fee by the usual service, paying yearly to me two silver pennies. Signed before these witnesses—John Lord, of Blithfeld, Robert Alienor, of Colton, Adam, son of Geoffrey Atte [H]assch, of Admaston, and others. Done at Admaston, on the Sunday in the

23 Nov. 1348

feast of St. Clement, 22 Ed. 3. (1349 A.D.)

Sir Thomas de Wasteneys land was tithe free, and there is a considerable piece of tithe free land near that (v. No. 88 on plan). If so, it *might* be the small lane leading from the Newland's road to that land. But it must remain very uncertain.

\* Eleanor Griffen, probably Alienor de Verdon, widow of Wm. Griffyn (1342 A.D.)



23 Ed. 3. 1350 A.D.

Henry, son of Hugh de Colton, gives to John (?) son of doñs. Adam de Chetewynde, five selions in Wilderley, for a yearly rent of seven pence, receiving for this grant the sum of 5s. 8d. paid down. Signed, &c, before these witnesses—John Geoffrey, *William Wygen*, Ralph Sprott, and others. Done at Colton on the feast of St. Valentine, 23 Ed. 3.

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1350 A.D.

I, John Chechekok, of Newlond, give to Alice, widow of Wm., son of Ralph, of Newlond, one piece of land and one selion, adjacent in '*Cotteholm*' field, lying between the land of Henry le Carter, and the river Blithe. Also, I have given her one piece of meadow land, and two perches adjacent in the '*Wallemedewe*,' in the \**Merefield*. And one selion and two other perches of land in the aforesaid field, lying near the land of Henry the Shepherde. And I have further given her two butts of land in the field aforesaid, near the land of the fore-named Henry. To have and to hold, &c. Sealed in the presence of William de la Hul, of Bromley, Robert le Cok, of Bromley, John Anneys, Richard de Ffalde, William Clerk. Done at the Newlond, on the Friday next after the feast of the Anunciation of the B. V. Mary, 23 Ed. 3. (1350 A.D.)

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23 Ed. 3. (1350 A.D.)

I, William, son of William Atte Asch, of Colton,

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\* The *Merefield* must have adjoined Mere Lane.

1349. give to John, son of Robert le Brok, two acres in Colton, lying in Homley field, between the land of Henry Bayn (?) and that of the aforesaid John, and it abuts on the land of John Perus, on one side, and on \**Mulnedych* on the other, for a term of 20 years, next ensuing, 23 Ed. 3. He paying me a rent yearly of eight silver pennies. Signed, &c., before John, Lord of Blithfield, Adam Atte Asch, of Colton, John Andrews, Roger Alienor and his brother, and others. Done at Admaston, in the year above-named.

24 Ed. 3. (1351 A.D.)

1350. I, William Alinor, of Admaston, to Wm., son of John le Clerk, of Stowe, and to Agnes, his wife, convey all my rights and lands, &c., in the fees of Colton, Heywode, Blithfeld, and Newton for ever. Sealed, &c., before these witnesses—Richard de Hampton, Richard, son of John de Blithfeld, John de Styvington, and others. Done at Admaston, on the Tuesday next, before the feast of St. Simon and St. Jude, 24 Ed. 3.

26 Ed. 3. (1353 A.D.)

I, Hugh de Tunstall de Bissopeston, clerk, give and convey to John le Brok, of Eadmaston, one acre of arable land, situated in the fee of Colton, in Homeley field, lying between the land of John, himself, and that of Wm. Stikebukke, and it stretches from the land of Sir John de Gresley, as far as *Mulnbrook*. Signed before John de Hampton.

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\* i.e., *Hamley Mill Ditch*.

John de Styvington, William del Lyghes, of Colton, William de Knotton, John Wymar, of Newlond. Done at Colton, on the Friday next after the feast of St. Barnabas, the Apostle, 26 Ed. 3. (1353 A.D.)

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29 Ed. 3. (1356 A.D.)

I, William, son of Hugh Wymar, give and grant to Richard, son of John Botte, of Admaston, two pieces of meadow in the Newland, lying in breadth between 'Huggefeld' and the river Blithe, and stretching to the *Meer*, and the land of John Wymar (almost obliterated), and the other place lies in \**Emedewe* (corrupted into Haymeadow ?) between the meadow of the parson of the church of Colton on the one side, and that of William Colemon on the other, and extends from the river Trent to Trent fields. To have and to hold, &c., usual signature. These witnesses—Roger Poore, parson of Blithfeld, John de Brok, R. de Hampton, John de Styvington, &c. Done at Mchms., 29 Ed. 3.

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BLITHFIELD DEED. 30 Ed. 3. (1357 A.D.)

Ralph Bagot, son and heir of Sir John Bagod, Kt. of Bromley Bagod, gives to Richard, son of John de Blithfeld, all his lands and tenements in the fees of Colton, Blithfeld, and Newton, with the rents, &c., which Mauld (*Wit*) (or *Maud* ?) Wymar, and Thomas Wymar, hold of me in Admaston.†

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\* Eye Meadow (251-252, on plan.)

† There is a copy of this deed in the Harl. MSS. B.M.

## INGESTRE DEED. 22 Ed. 3. (1349 A.D.)

Richard Chychoke, of Newlond, gives to John, son of Henry Cheichok, of Newlond, seven selions of arable land situated in the fee of Colton, in the open field called Waggestane\* field, joining my land on the one side, and the land of Sir Thomas de Wasteneyes on the other, extending from the land of the Prior of St. Thomas' near Stafford, as far as the handlone. These witnesses—Richard Colet, of Newland, Robert Gylan, of Newlond, William Maynard, of Colton, William, the Smith of Colton, the younger, and others. Given at Colton, on the 7th day of Easter, 22 Ed. 3. (1349 A.D.)

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## INGESTRE DEED.

I, Roger, son of Wm. de Newlond, give to Henry, son of Hugh, and to John, his brother, of Newlond, seven selions of arable land in the fee of Colton, within the land of Hugh de Newlond, and that of Richard Julian in width, and stretching in length from Blakelake to the high road, to have and to hold of me and my heirs by a yearly rent of six silver pennies, payable half-yearly, and for this grant they have paid me four silver shillings. Witnessed by Nicholas de Newlond, Robert Colet, of Blithbury, Richard de Newlond, Hugh Ffranceys, of Blithbury, Ralph, the miller of Blithbury. Thomas de Herdewyk, and many others.

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\* Now called "Wagstaff" (No. 30 on plan).

## INGESTRE DEED, 32 Ed. 3. (1359 A.D.)

John, son of Hugh de Chethehocke,\* gives to Henry, his son, all his rights and claims in 6 selions of land in the fee of Colton, within the land of Hugh de Newlond and that of Richard Julian in width, and extending in length from Blakelake to the high road, &c. Witnessed by Robert Colet, Thomas de Herdewyke, Richard Julian, Richard Tenten and others. Given at Colton, on the Tuesday next before the feast of St. Chad, 32 Ed. 3.

## A.D. 1352 (INGESTRE) 25. Ed. 3.

Let all men know that I John son of Robert Stykbok of Colton have released for ever for me and my heirs to Sir John Gresley Kt. and to Joanna his wife, and to the heirs and assigns of the aforesaid Joanna, the moiety of one piece of ground which Robert Hugyn held in Colton, and one acre of land in *Hazelhurst* situated between the holding of John son of Robert Stykbok on the one side, and the land of Cuyly on the other, and it extends to the high road and to a certain open field called *Croftes*; and the aforesaid acre of land lies within the land of the aforesaid Sir John Gresley, Kt. on either side and extends towards the *Oxeve*† and the land of Wm.

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\* Or, Clechehocke.

† This land of William, the Smith, from its position near the "Oxeve" and "Hazlehurst," must be the same which Sir William de Wasteneys granted in 1279 A.D. to a former William, the Smith, not far from the river, between the Parchfields and the Mill.

the Smith—I have also released to Sir John Gresley and his wife all my right and claim in one rood of land in Homeleye super Hungerhill', and in one rood of meadow in *Oxemedde* which extends to a certain stream and a certain spring of Geoffrey at Essh (ash?) and half an acre of land which lies in '*Sentoft*,'\* which Adam Hondeson formerly held, which extends towards Grasshaye and towards the land which Sir Wm. de Morley, Kt. had.—Signed in the presence of these witnesses, Wm chaplain of Colton,† Wm. de Knotten,‡ Wm. le Clerk, Thomas de Stalbrok, Wm. Wys. John Hobets of Colton, Wm. le Parker and others—at Colton on the Sunday next after the feast of St. Nicholas Bishop, in the year of King Edward IIIrds. reign over England the 25th and of his reign over Ffrance the 12th (1352 A.D.)

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A.D. 1357. INGESTRE DEED. 30 Ed. 3.

Sciant presentes et futuri quod ego Ricardus fil' Roberti de Hampton dedi, concessi et hac presenti carta mea confirmavi Adê Prentys de Heywode illud messuagium cum pertinentiis quod quondam fuit Magistri Roberti de Bromleye, quod jacet exopposito teñ Wmi. de Chetwynde in feodo de Colton, et unam

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\* Toft—an "enclosure," and is a Danish word.

† Was "William chaplain" the William *Godwin*, chaplain of the plea roll? At this date Hugh Ffordyan was rector of Colton. Possibly William served the chapel once standing on the site of Bellamore Lodge grass plot.

‡ William de Knotton occurs in the Fine of Sir Thomas de Wastineys, entailing Colton Manor.



placeam terre jacentem in Homeleye juxta terram Wmi. de Chetwynde ex una parte et terram Johannis Andreu? (almost obliterated) ex altera parte. Et aliam placeam terræ cum forera in eodem campo jacentem juxta terram Roberti Alinore juxta capud supra dicte terræ, et tertiam placeam terræ jacentem in eodem campo juxta messuagium Johannis del Lee, et extendit se a crofto quondam Johannis Andreu usque ad terram Henrici Wilchar: et quartam placeam terræ jacentem in Homeleye inter terram Willhni. clerici ex una parte et terram quæ quondam fuit Eve\* de Chetwynde ex altera parte, et unam selionem terræ jacentem in eodem campo juxta terram Wmi. de Penne et unam placeam terræ vocatam † *Coleteflatts* jacentem in eodem campo Et duas placeas terræ jacentes in le ‘*Netherlecrofts*’ quarum una jacet juxta messuagium quondam Eve de Chetwynde, et alia placea terræ extendit se super predictum messuagium et totum pratum meum cum pertinentiis in feudo de Colton preter quamdam parvam placeam prati quam Alicia soror mea de me tenet. Habend’ et tenend’ &c. Datum apud Colton die Martis juxta post festum Annunciacionis Be’ Marie’ Anno regni regis Edwardi tertii post conquestum tricesimo. His testibus Johnne de Gresley Dom. de Colton, Rogero de Aston Milit’, Henrico de Blythefeld elico, Thome de Stalbrok, Johne le Cook, Henrico de Puys, Johne Penne (?) et aliis.

1356.

\* Eva de Chetwynde, otherwise Eva de Oswaldstre.

† “Colette Flatts,” described as in Hamley = “Crab tree” Flat?

(299.) GRESLEY CHARTERS. 37 Ed. 3. (1364 A.D.)

Hœc indentura facta inter Johannem Louterel de Boulby, ex parte unâ, et dominum Johannem de Gresley, militem, et dominam Johannam uxorem dicti domini Johannis, ex parte alterâ, testatur, videlicet, quod dictus Johannes Louterel ad totam vitam suam concessit et dedit dictis domino Johanni, et domine Johanne, et eorum assignatis, omnia messuagia sua, gardina, curtilagia, terras, prata, moras, boscos, pascua, pasturas, redditus et servicia, et *molendinum suum ventriticum*, et tementa sua omnimoda cum pertinentiis, que et quas dictus Johannes Louterel prius habuit in Colton, ad terminum vite sue, ad commodum suum inde et ubique faciendum, sine aliquâ calumpniâ vastâ, de dono et concessione domini Willielmi de Morleye, militis, in Colton, cum omnibus juribus et pertinentiis suis communibus pasturis, turbariis, piscariis, et omnibus aliis commoditatibus, libertatibus, et omnimodis aliis proficuis et asiamentis capiendis tam boscorum quam aliorum tenementorum exceptâ advocacione ecclesie Beate Marie de Colton; Habend, et tenend' omnia predicta tenementa, et totum molendinum ventriticum, cum pertinentiis, cum omnibus juribus et pertinentiis, suis communibus pasturis, turbariis, piscariis, et omnibus aliis commoditatibus, libertatibus, asiamentis, et proficuis capiendistam boscorum quam aliorum tenementorum, et cum homagiis, releviis, wardis, et maritagiiis redditibus et serviciis omnium tenencium de tenenciis (?) eorum exeuntibus in Colton sine aliquo

retenemento et sine aliquâ calumpniâ vastâ (exceptâ advocacione predictâ) predictis domino Johanni et domine Johanne, et eorum assignatis, ad totam vitam dicti Johannis Louterel, de dicto Johanni Louterel in eodem statu sicut dictus Johannes Louterel omnia predicta tenementa, cum omnimodis proficuis et commoditatibus ut predictum est, tenuit per servicium sex marcarum argenti, vel auri, solvend[arum] annuatim apud Drakelowe; videlicet ad festum Sancti Michaelis Archangeli, pro omnibus serviciis, et securalibus demandis. Et dictus dominus Johannes, et domina Johanna, concesserunt pro eis et eorum assignatis, quod post vendicionem, et succisionem bosci, qui vocatur "Marchalshey," salvabunt dictum boscum per tres annos in separal[i], et quod tota vita ipsius Johannis Louterel domos in capitali messuagio existentes in adeo bono statu, quo eas receperunt, dimittent, et quod si dictus redditus sex marcarum in parte vel in toto per viginti dies post dictum festum Sancti Michaelis a retro fuerit, ex tunc bene liceat dicto Johanni in omnibus predictis tenementis distringere, et districtionem retinere quousque de omnibus arreragiis plenarie fuerit ei satisfactum. Et dictus Johannes Louterel ad totam vitam suam omnia predicta tenementa cum molendino ventritico, et cum omnibus aliis proficuis &c. (usual warranty and seal), Hiis testibus. Radulpho Bagot, domino de Blithfeld, Thomâ Mauvesyn, Magistro Henrico de Blithfeld, Hugone le White, Johanne de Wolseleye, Willielmo de Knotton, Thomâ Dimmok de Colton,

et aliis. Datum apud Drakelow, die lune in festo Apostolorum Philippi et Jacobi, (May 1st) anno-regni Regis Edwardi tercii p.c. tricesimo Septimo (1364 A.D.) small seal undecipherable.

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43 Ed. 3. (1370 A.D.)

Thomas de Hampton grants to Thomas son of Sir Roger de Aston Kt., all the property he holds by the gift and feoffment of William de Chetwynde Kt., in Haywode, Huxton (Hixon) Colton &c. Witnessed by Sir William de Chetwynd Kt., Thomas de Colwych, John de Wolseley and many others—given at Ingestre on the friday before the feast of St. Fabian and St. Sebastian Martyrs, in the 43rd year of king Ed. 3.

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(320.) GRESLEY DEED, 1374 (47 Ed. 3).

Hœc indentura facta inter dominum Johannem de Gresleye militem, et Johannam uxorem ejus, ex parte unâ, et Johannem filium Willielmi le Clerk, de Coltun ex parte alterâ, testatur, quod dicti dominus Johannes, et domina Johanna dederunt &c. Johanni, filio Willielmi le Clerk, et assignatis suis unam placeam terre, et pasture, cum pertinentiis suis in Colton que vocatur "le Biech-hey" (or Brech-hay) jacentem inter separale (*sic*) quondam Ricardi de Hampton, quod vocatur "Wildurley-mor," ex unâ parte, et le Prior's "Kine-wards-ley," ex parte alterâ, in excambium pro habendo "*Griffensmore*," cumcrofto adjacente, cum pertinentiis in Colton, jacente inter "*Colemon's-more*,"

ex parte unâ, et le Biechmore, ex parte alterâ. Habend' &c. per servicium unius rose annuatim ad festum Nativitatis S. Johannis Baptiste. Hiis testibus, Henrico Puys, (Wells) de Rugeley, Adâ le Prentys de eadem, Thoma Dymok de Colton, Johanne Griffyn de eâdem, Galfrido Colemon de eadem, Nicholao le Prechour, de eadem, Thoma fabro de eadem; Dat' apud Colton die veneris in festo Sancti Johannis ante portam Latinam, anno regni Regis Edwardi tercii post conquest' quadragesimo septimo (47 Ed. 3).

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No. 329. GRESLEY CHARTER (1377 A.D.) 50 Ed. 3.

Sciant p, et f, quod Ego Johannes Stykebocke de Colton dedi, concessi, &c. domino Johanni de Gresleye militi, et domine Johanne, uxori sue, heredibus, et assignatis dicte domine Johanne unam dimidiam acram prati cum pertinenciis in Colton, jacentem in "Oxemedewe," inter pratum domini ex unâ parte, et pratum Willelmi Atte-Asch ex alterâ parte; Habend' et tenend' totam dictam dimidiam acram prati cum pertinenciis dictis domino Johanni, et domine Johanne, heredibus et assignatis dicte domine Johanne libere et pacifice in perpetuum. Et ego vero dictus Johannes, et her' mei, (usual warranty and signature) Hiis testibus, Magistro Henrico de Blythefeld, Henrico Puys, Johanne le clerke de Colton, Thoma Dymmok de Colton, Ricardo de Hampton, et aliis. Dat' apud Colton die lune in festo Sancti Dunstani, anno regni Regis

Edwardi tercii post conquestum quinquagesimo.  
(50 Ed. 3) small red seal of no importance).

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(No. 339.) GRESLEY DEED (2 Ric. 2). 1379 A.D.

Sciant p, et f, quod ego Willelmus Prentyse de Colton dedi &c. domino Johanni de Gresleye militi, et domine Johanne uxori ejus, unam dimidiam acram prati cum pertin' in Colton, jacentem in Oxemedewe, inter pratum p'dictorum domini Johannis et domine Johanne ex utrâque parte. Habend' et tenend' de capitali domino feodi illius per servicia inde debita, et de jure consueta, libere et pacifice in perpetuum. Hiis testibus, Magistro Henrico de Blythfield, Johanne le Clerk de Colton, Johanne Gryffyn de eâdem, Willielmo de Penne, Johanne Alyanore de Colton, et aliis; Dat' apud Colton die dominica proximâ post festum Purificationis Beate Marie, anno regni Regis Ricardi secundi secundo. (Red seal, figures defaced.)

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(344.) GRESLEY DEEDS (1383 A.D.) 6 Ric. 2.

Sciant presentes et futuri quod Ego Thomas de Morlee, miles, marescallus Hibernie, dedi, concessi &c. domino Johanni de Gresleye, militi, et domine Johanne, uxori sue, heredibus et assignatis dicte domine Johanne, omnia, terras, et tenementa mea, redditus, et servicia, cum pertinentiis, que habeo in Colton, in comitatu Staffordie, cum advocacione ecclesie beate Marie ejusdem ville, concessi etiam, et dedi, predictis, domino Johanni de Gresleye, et Johanne, et heredibus, et assignatis, dicte Johanne

A.D. 1379.



reversionem omnium terrarum et tenementorum, redd' et servic', cum advocacione ecclesie p'dicte, cum pertinentiis, que Johannes Luterel tenet ad terminum vite sue in eâdem villâ ex concessione domini Willelmi de Morlee, patris mei, de hereditate meâ. Et que post mortem predicti Johannis Luterel, michi et heredibus meis reverti deberent integre remaneant predicto domino Johanni de Gresley et Johanne, et heredibus et assignatis dicte Johanne. Habend' et tenend' omnia p'dicta, terras et tenementa, redditus et servicia, cum advocacione ecclesie, simul cum reversione p'dictâ, quandocunque acciderit, &c., &c., de capitalibus dominis feodi per servicia inde debita et consueta, &c., et ego p'dictus Thomas (usual warranty and seal) Hiis testibus, Domine Willelmo Chetewint, domino Roberto Maversyn, domino Johanne Bagot, domino Thoma de Aston, domino Thoma de Thomantorn, militibus. Thoma "of ye Stonnis-yode," Roberto Cook de Bromley Abbot; Dat' apud Colton, in festo Sancti Petri, quod dicitur "ad vincula," anno regni Regis Ricardi secundi post conquestum, sexto. 6 Ric. 2 (1383 A.D.).

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#### GRESLEY DEED (345).

A power of attorney by Thomas de Morlee Kt. to Edmund Toly,\* and John Marchys, to deliver seisin of the above named lands in Colton, same date, good seal of arms broken.

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\*[A near relative, probably, of Joan de Gresley.]

## 10 Richard 2. 1387 A.D. BLITHFELD DEED.

Sciánt p'et f' quod nos Wms. Botte et Margaret' uxor mea d', con', et hac presenti carta nostra confirmavimus Ricardo Marchal rectori de Blith(field) Henrico de Frodesham capellano, Thome le Taillore et Ncho Botte, omnia tenementa, terras, prata, pascua, &c. in feodo de Colton et Blith(feld). Habend' et tenend' omnia p'dicta tenementa p'dicto Ricardo, Henrico, Thome et Nchlo, et heredibus vel assignatis, quiete et in pace de domns feodi illius per debita servicia (usual warranty and seal) His testibus Henrico de Blith(feld) Thome de Stones, Rado de Hamptono, Wmo. Parker, Ricard de Sonde, Henrico Gamel et aliis—Datum Apud Admundeston die martis proxima post fest' Sancti Michaelis. Anno regni regis Ricardi secundi post conquestum Anglie decimo.

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## INGESTRE DEED. 22 Richard 2. 1399 A.D.

Sciánt presentes et futuri quod ego Johes Cook de Bromley dedi concessi et hac present' carta mea confirmavi Thomasine de Gresley dñe Colton omnia terras et tenementa prata, pascua et redditus cum pertinentiis suis que habeo in feodo de Colton, Habend' et tenend' &c. p'dicte Thomasine heredibus et assignatis suis de capital' dño feodi illius per servitia inde debita &c. libere &c. (the usual warranty) In cujus rei testimoni' huic p'senti carte sigillum meum apposui — His testibus Johñe Clerkson, Johñe Clerk de Colton, Rogero Priours, Symone le Parker, Thome le—et aliis. Datum apud

Colton die Jovis juxta post festum Scti Michls anno regni regis Ricardi secundi vicesimo secundo.

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(374.) GRESLEY DEEDS (1405 A.D.) 6 Hen. 4.

Sciant presentes et futuri quod ego Thomas de Gresley, miles, dedi, concessi &c. Philippo de Repingdon, Episcopo Lincolniensi, Thome Langley, tunc cancellario Anglie, Thome Maureward militi, Roberto Waterton, Petro de Melburne, Nicholao Bradschaw, Roberto Twyford, Johanni Foljaumbe, Ricardo de Burton, et Ricardo de Hylton, omnia, terras, et tenementa mea, dominia redditus, et servicia, tam liberorum, quam nativorum, prata, pascua, et pasturas, unâ cum advocacionibus ecclesiarum, et cum omnibus pertinentiis suis in Colton, et alibi in comitatu Staffordie, in Osgarthorpe et alibi in comitatu Leycestrie, in Brassynburgh in comitatu Lincolnie, et in Seton et alibi in comitatu Ebor (ascensi') que, et quas, quondam fuerunt domino Thome Wasteneys avi mei, et que michi, post mortem domine Thomasine de Gresleye matris mee, jure et hereditate descende-bant; et omnia alia, terras, et tenementa que habeo in predictis comitatibus et alibi. Habend' et tenend' omnia predicta, terras, et tenementa, dominia (ut supra) predictis Philippo, Thome de Langley, Thome Maureward, Roberto, Petro, Nicholao, Roberto, Johanni, Ricardo, et Ricardo, heredibus et eorum assignatis de capitalibus dominis feodorum illorum, per servicia inde debita et de jure consueta. Et ego vero predictus Thomas de Gresley et heredes

mei (usual warranty and seal). Hiis testibus, Johanne de Ardern, Roberto de Fraunceys, Johanne Bagot, Willelmo Newport, militibus, Nicholao de Ruggeley, et aliis. Data apud Colton die mercurii in festo beate Marie Magdalene, anno regni Regis Henrici quarti post conquestum sexto. (6 Hen. 4.) Seal of Gresley arms. ———

(376.) GRESLEY DEED (c. 1405 A.D.)

Ceste endenture tripartite tesmoigne que Phelippe de Repingdon, Evesque de Nichol (Lincoln), Thomas Langley donques (done) Chaunceller d'Engleterre, Thomas Maureward chevaler, Robert de Waterton, Piers de Melburne, Nichol de Bradschawe Robert de Twyford, Johan Foljaumbe, Richard de Burton, et Richard Hilton, referront (*sic*) Thomas de Gresley, chevaler, en touz les terres et tenementz on lez appurtenauntz en Colton, en la comite de Staff; et aillowrz oue en asquun parcel de eux les queux ils ont de donne et feoffment de dice Thomas de Gresley, a quele heure que mesme le Thomas eux vorra (*sic*) demander, ou requirer, oue a auquun qie voll assigner, oue en quele autre maner. Et si le dice Thomas de Gresley demie sans anquun reffeement que adonques les feffees avantnommes estorent en leur feoffement durant le nonage del heir de mesme le Thomas. Et dame Marguerite femme mesme le Thomas prendra les profetez de terres et tenementz avaundicez al eide del eisne file de mesme le Thomas par la veu de dicez feffees quaunque la dice dame Marguerite estoise soule sanz marri. Et si ele prent marri el mesme temps que

adinges Nichol Bradschawe, Richard de Burton, et Richârd Hylton, prendroient lez profetez de dicez terres et tenementz ou lez appurtenantz par la veu dez feffez avauntdicez durant le nonnage del heir avauntdice al aide de dice file. Et quaunt l'heir le dice Thomas Gresley vient al plein age loz feffees avauntdicez enfefferent le dice heire en touz lez terres et tenementz avauntdicez, oue touz maneres appurtenantz a lui et sez heires de son corps engendrez. Et sie le dice heire demie sanz heires de son corps engendre, as droites heires de dice Thomas de Gresley retournera par touz jours. (Fine seal of Gresley and Wasteney's arms quarterly) (c. 1405 ?).

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#### INGESTRE DEED, 10 Henry 4 (1409 A.D.)

Sciant presentes et futuri quod ego Johes Bygrave de Blythefeld dedi concessi et hac presenti carta mea confirmavi Johanni Banastur de Colton unum cotagium quondam Willmi Stretton in Newlond, et duodecim seliones terre, quarum quinque seliones jacent in Huggefild cum una forera, extendentes super dictum cotagium ad finem anstralem, et ad alteram finem butt' super *Blakelake*,\* et due seliones terre jacent in eodem campo inter terram quondam Rogeri Grace ex utraque parte, et quatuor seliones terre simul jacent in *Waggestesfeld* inter terram Domni vocat' *Stevenfeld* et terram quam Wms. de Newlond, nuper tenuit de Willmo. Londesdale. Habend' et tenend' p'dictum cotagium et duodecim seliones

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\* The *Blakelake*, which occurs repeatedly in the deeds, was near Huggefild, No. 10 on plan.

p'dict' cum pertin' suis p'dicto Johanni Banastur hered' suis vel assignatis libere, quiete et in pace de capital' domno. feodi illius per servitia debita in perpetuum; et ego p'dictus Johnes Bygrave et heredes mei p'dictum cottagium et seliones in perpetuum Johni Banastur et heredibus suis warrantizabimus. In cujus rei testimonium sigillum meum apposui. His testibus Johne le Klerkeson de Colton, Johne Clerk de Colton, Johne de Newlond, Johne Wymare et aliis. Datum apud Newlond juxta Colton in festo Sancti Bartholomei apostoli, anno regni regis Henrici quarti decimo.

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INGESTRE DEED, 12 H. 4 (1411 A.D.)

Sciant p. et f' quod ego Johannes Banastur manens in Colton dedi, concessi, et hac p'senti carta mea confirmavi Thome Gresley militi dno de Colton unum cotagium et duodecim seliones terre arrabilis cum pertinentiis in le Newlond, que quondam fuerunt Willmi Stretton, quarum quinque seliones cum una forera simvl jacent in campo vocato Huggefild (10) extendentes super p'dictum cottagium ad finem australem, et ad alteram finem buttantes super le *Blakelake*, et due seliones terre jacent in eodem campo inter terram quondam Rogeri Grace ex utraque parte, et quatuor seliones terre simul jacent in Waggestersfeld (30) inter terram Dmni dictam Stenenfeld, et terram quam Wms. de Newlond, nuper tenuit de Wmo. Londesdale. Habend' et tenend' p'dictum cotagium et duodecim seliones cum suis pertinentiis p'fato Thome heredibus et



assignatis suis capitalibus Dmns feodi illius per servitia inde debita et de jure consueta, libere quiete et in pace in perpetuum. Et ego vero Johnes et heredes mei p'dictum cottagium, &c., p'fato Thome heredibus et assignatis contra omnes gentes warrantizabimus et in perpetuum defendimus. In cujus rei testimon' huic p'senti carte mee sigillum meum apposui. His testibus, Johanne de Colwyche, Johanne de Russhebury persona ecclesie de Colton, Henrico del Bottery de Bromley Abbis, et aliis. Datum apud Colton die martis prox' post festum Sancti Valentini confessoris, anno regni regis Henrici Quarti post conquestum duo decimo.

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(387.) GRESLEY DEED, 1409-10 A.D. (11 Hen. 4).

Grant by Thomas de Langley, Bishop of Durham, Philip de Repyngton, Bishop of Lincoln, Thomas Maureward Kt., Robert Waterton, Piers de Melburne, Nicholas Bradschawe, Robert Twiford, Richard de Burton, and Richard de Hilton, to John Gresley, son and heir of Thomas de Gresley Kt., and Elizabeth daughter of Thomas Clarell, of an annual rent of 20 marcs, arising from Colton Manor, for their life. Dat' Colton (11 Hen. 4). (French deed.)

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BLITHFIELD DEED (1418 A.D.) 5 Hen. 5.

Richard de Truwe, grants to John Bagod, Kt., and his heirs, all claim and right in one messuage, one acre of land, and one acre of meadow in Colton, which formerly belonged to John Smyth, and which John Bagot, aforesaid, holds of the gift and

feoffment of Richard de Betteley, rector of Blithfield, and John Clerkson. His test. John Clerk, Richard Griffyn, John Wogan, and others. Done at Colton, on the Monday next before the feast of St. Cedde, 5 Hen. 5. —————

BLITHFIELD DEED (1418 A.D.) 5 Hen. 5.

Deed of gift to Sir John Bagot from Richard de Betteley and John Clerkson of this same land, &c., in Colton, described as lying between a messuage of Thomas de Gresley and one formerly belonging to Roger del Priours and the one acre of land lies in the Croftes, and abuts on the messuage, aforesaid, and the one acre of meadow lies in the Sleeting. Witnesses—John Clerk, John Geoffrey, R. Griffyn, and others, 5 Hen. 5.

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BLITHFIELD DEED, 9 Hen. 5. (1422 A.D.)

William Adyshale, of Colton, gives to Richard Betteley, rector of Blithfeld, Thomas Hanley, of Lichfield, chaplain, and *John Wygan*, of Colton, all my lands, &c., in the vill, and fields of Colton and Blithfeld. To hold for ever by the usual service. Witnesses—John Clerkeson, Wm. Stykebok, John Makworth, Wm. Hereforde, Nicholas Clerke, and others. Done at Colton, “die lune prox post fest’ St. Johñs ante portam Latinam,” 9 Hen. 5.

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(404.) GRESLEY DEED, 9 Hen. 5 (1422 A.D.)

Noverint universi per presentes me Johannem de Colton, alias dictum Johannem “del’ Hull,” manentem in Drakelowe, in com’ Derby, remisisse,

relaxasse, et omnino pro me, et hered' meis, in perpetuum quietum clamasse Thome Gresley, militi, domino de Drakelowe, hered', et assignatis ipsius Thome, totum jus meum et clameum que unquam habui . . . futuro habere potero, in omnibus terris, et tenementis, redditibus, et possessionibus. &c. . . successione hereditaria post mortem Roberti del Hull, patris mei, in villâ, et territorio, ac feodo, de Colton, in com' Staff. Ita quod nec ego, predictus Johannes nec heredes mei, ant aliquis alius nomine nostro, aliquam actionem juris, vel clamei, in p'dictis terris, &c., de cetero exigere, seu vindicare poterimus in futuro. Sed ab omni actione juris, et clamei, inde sumus exclusi in perpetuum per presentes: et Ego (warranty and seal) &c. Hiis testibus, Johanne Gresleye milite, Johanne Clerkson de Colton, Radulpho Wolseley de Wolseley, Johanne Colewiche, Radulpho Aleyn de Huxsdon, et aliis; Dat' apud Colton predictam, die veneris prox' post festum Scti Gregorii Pape, anno regni R. Henrici quinti post conquestum Anglie nono. (9 Hen. 5.)

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BLITHFIELD DEED, 9 Hen. 6 (1431 A.D.)

Thomas Perkyn, rector of Blithfeld, and John Wolaston, chaplain, give to Ralph Broke and Agnes, his wife, all those lands, tenements, &c., which they had received from Ralph in the fees of Colton, Blithfeld, Newton, and Bromley Bagot, to have and to hold for ever of the chief lords of those fees by the usual service. Witnesses—Hugh White, Humphrey Clerkson, Henry Chambers, and others.

Done at Admaston, die Jovis prox ante fest' Easter  
9 Hen. 6.

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(No. 425.) GRESLEY DEED, 26 Hen. 6 (1448 A.D.)

"This is the appoyntmentez betwyx John Gresley, Squier, son and heire of John Gresley, knyght, uppon the on(e) partie, and Dam(e) Marget, sumtyme wyff to the seid John Gresley, kt., upon the t'other partie; That is to say, that those persones that are enfeffed in the maners of Colton, and Kyngestone, in the counte of Stafford, to the use of the same Dam(e) Marget, shall be (by) thaire dede endeded make a lese of all the seide tenementez to the seide John Gresley, Squier. . . . terme of xxx. yere next following the dat(e) of these presentes. Yeldyng therefore yerely to the said feffeez xv£ in the mynster of Seynt Mary of Coventre, at the festes of Seynt Philip and Jacobe, apostles, and of Seynt Martyn in wyntour, by even porcions; forseen allway that yff the seide John Gresley squier, or ells the seide Dam(e) Marget digh (die) within the seide terme, then this seide lese and terme be determynt and fynyshed. Forsen also that the seide feffes within the seide term shall not distrayne for the said rent, ner for no parte thereof beyng by hynde; also that every day when the seide Dam(e) Marget, or the seide feffees receyve any of the paymentes aforeseide, then they shall deliver for all sicke paymentes by them or by any of them receyvet, acquittance thereof in like forme to these words that here followen. Noverint universi per presentes nos Margaretam nuper uxorem Johannis de Gresley

militis, jam defuncti, Humfridum Blount, et Jacobum de Hopwod, recepisse et habuisse die confectionis presencium de Johanne Gresley armigero, sex li. sterlingorum de redditu nostro pro termino festi Sanctorum Philippi et Jacobi jam instante, pro maneriis de Colton et Kyngeston, eidem Johanni et aliis per nos ad firmam nuper dimissis, de quibus quidem xx. li. fatemur nos fore pacatos, dictumque Johannem Gresley inde esse quietum per presentes sigillis nostris signatas. Dat' primo die Maii, anno regni Regis Henrici sexti xxvii." and in like forme for every other day of payment then followyng shall be made other acquittancez for those termes in like forme: In witness whereof aither of the seide parties, enchargeable to these presentes, have sette thaire seales. Given ye first day of Marche in the xxvi. year of the regne of King Harry, the sext." (26 Hen. 6).

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(436.) GRESLEY DEED, 36 Hén. 6 (1458 A.D.)

Sciánt p., et f., quod Ego Johannes Gresley miles, dominus de Colton, dedi, concessi, &c., *Ricardo Wygan* de Colton, unam placeam terre in Colton predicto, quondam in tenura Johannis Parker, jacentem inter terram meam ex unâ parte, et terram Thome Dymok ex altera parte, et latat (?) in longitudine versus altam viam ad unum capud, et aliud capud latat super terram predicti Thome Dymok, et continet in longitudine versus terram meam octoginto duos pedes, et ex alterâ parte continet in longitudine sexaginta novem pedes, et in latitudine versus terram predicti Thome Dymok continet quinquaginta

quinque pedes, et in latitudine versus altam viam continet sexaginta duo pedes. Habend' et tenend' predict' placeam terre, cum omnibus suis pertinentiis prefato Ricardo et heredibus, et assignatis suis de me et heredibus meis in perpetuum. Reddendo inde annuatim mihi et heredibus meis tres catapultas ("broad arrows;" *v.* Gresley Charters; Jeayes), ad festum Pasche tantum pro omni servicio seculari. consuetudine, exactione, et demanda; Et ego vero (usual warranty and seal). Hiis testibus, Johanne Belton de Colton, Willelmo Wheston de eâdem Wñio. Botaler de eadem, et multis, aliis; Dat apud Colton predictum, quarto die mensis maii, anno regni Regis Henrici sexti post conquestum Anglie tricesimo sexto (1458 A.D.) (large seal of Gresley arms, much injured).

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BLITHFELD DEED (1459 A.D.), 37 Hen. 6.

I Richard Bagot, Armg, have given and granted by this my deed to John Bagot and Isabella his wife my manors of Kylbye\* and Colton, in Staffs—with all their full rights—which manors Beatrix, who was the wife of Sir John Bagot, Kt., and my mother, held in her dowry after the death of Sir John Bagot my father. To have and to hold to the aforesaid John and Isabella for the lifetime of Isabella, of the chief lords of the fees, by the wonted services—and after Isabella's death, I will that those manors remain to John Bagot and the heirs of his body by

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\* Kylby was the small manor of "Blithbury Bank" (Mavesyn Ridware parish), named after Sir Wm. Kileby, who married the heiress (*v.* Shaw).



Isabella, and if he die without heirs by her then to John Bagot's (next) heir and assign, for ever. And know that I Richard Bagot have made and constituted my well beloved John Pullesdon and Wm. Chace my attornies to deliver to John Bagot and Isabella seisin and full possession of the aforesaid manors. (signed as usual) these witnesses John Gresley Kt., John Cotton Armg, Thomas Newlonde, Thomas Shene, John Osmonderlowe and others—  
 Janry 10. 37 Hen. 6. A.D. 1459

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BLITHFIELD DEED 37 Hen. 6 (1459 A.D.)

Another deed of same day and year (Jan. 10. 37 Hen. 6) by which John Bagot arnig, and Isabella nominate Richard Griffen and John Clerk as their attorneys to receive Colton and Kylbye manors from Richard Bagot.

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(No. 449.) GRESLEY DEED, 21 Ed. 4. (1481 A.D.)

Sciánt p., et f., quod nos Magister Willelmus Gresley, rector ecclesie de Stoke, et Ricardus Gresley, tradidimus et dimissimus Johanni Gresley militi, et Anne uxori ejus, manerium de Colton, in comitatu Staffordie, cum omnibus suis pertinentiis, et omnia alia, terras et tenementa, redditus et servicia, cum omnibus suis pertinenciis in Colton predicto, que nuper habuimus ex dono et feofmento p'dicti Johannis Gresley, militis; Habend' et tenend' prefato Johanni Gresley, militi, et Anne uxori ejus, et heredibus, et assignatis suis, in perpetuum, de capitalibus dominis feodi illius per servicia inde debita et de jure consueta; In cujus rei test', &c.

(usual warranty and seals). Hiis testibus, Ricardo Bagott de Blyffeld, armigero, Johanne Bagott filio suo, Johanne Egerton, armigero, Johanne Cawarden de Mavesyn Ridware, armigero, Ricardo Norman de la Boulde, Ricardo Wygan de Colton, et aliis; Dat' apud Colton, die martis proxima post festum ascensionis Domini, anno regni Regis Edwardi quarti, vicesimo primo (1481 A.D.).

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(455.) GRESLEY DEED, 7 Hen. 7 (1492 A.D.).

Sciunt p., et f., quod ego Ludovicus Bagot, armiger, dedi &c. et p. cartâ indentatâ liberavi Thome Gresley, militi, quatuor acras terre arabilis jacentes infra feodum de Colton, in quadam clausurâ vocata "*Hasilhurst*," modo inclusâ infra *Novum parcum* ibidem; cum omnibus suis pertinentiis; Remisi eciam et relaxavi de me et heredibus meis eidem Thome, heredibus et assignatis suis, in perpetuum totum jus meum, statum, titulum et possessionem que habeo, habui, seu quovis modo in futuro habere\* de aut in omnibus aliis, terris, pratis, et pasturis, modo inclusis infra *Novum parcum* predictum, ac in le *Barremore* et le "*Moreheys*," consimili modo inclusis, ita quod idem Thomas Gresley, et heredes sui, dicta, terras, prata, et cetera premissa, cum suis pertinenciis decetero possint in sepealitate tenere, includere, et imparcare, pro me, et heredibus meis in perpetuum. Hœc omnia dedi et concessi in excambio pro quinque acris terre jacentibus in tribus clausuris in Admas-ton, vocat' le "*Ley*," modo in tenurâ Thome Smyth,

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\* A word is wanting here—probably "potero."

simul cum seperalitate earundem, simul cum quodam annuali reddito trium solidorum, eidem Thome exeuncium de messuagio in tenurâ ejusdem Thome Smyth. Habenda, et tenenda omnia, predicta, terras et pasturas, cum moris predictis et ceteris premissis, cum seperalitate eorundem prefato Thome Gresley her' et assignatis suis, in perpetuum, in excambio ut premittitur de capitalibus dominis feodi illius per servicia inde debita, et de jure consueta. Et ego vero, Ludovicus predictus (usual warranty and seal). Hiis testibus, Ricardo Norman, Ricardo Gresley, Johanne Blount, gentilmen, Johanne Ball, clerico, Thomâ Smyth, gentmn., et multis aliis. Dat' quinto decimo die Februarii, anno regni Regis Henrici septimi p. c. septimo (7 Hen. 7) (Red seal—a bird).

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INGESTRE DEED, 29 Hen. 8 (1538 A.D.)

Thomas Bagott Esqre, in fulfilment of an indenture made the previous year (1537) with Sir Edward Aston Kt. conveys to Richard Lyttleton and Thomas Moreton, gentlemen, all his lands tenements rents, &c. in Colton, now held by Richard Shepherd, Thomas Gorst, William Bran, and *William Butteler*\*; and also all the rents and services of Sir George Gresley Kt. Roger Geoffrey, John Clerkeson, John Clerk, *Richard Russell*,\* Richard Robotham, Thomas Hande (?) and Thomas Wyggen—for their lands and holdings in Colton—(the deed then goes on to convey all Thomas Bagott's lands in Blithbury, Blythfyld, Bagott's Bromley, &c., to the same Richard

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\* Members of these families left two small charities to Colton.

Lyttleton and Thomas Moreton; and is signed at Blythfyld. (29 Henry 8.)

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INGESTRE DEED. A.D. 1538. (Latin) 30 Hen. 8.

Henry Ward Clerk and Thomas Gylbert announce that they have given to Sir George Gresley Kt. all that tenement and messuage in Colton commonly called the 'Newlodge' now held by Peter Woodward; and one pasture, or piece of ground in the land called the new land in Colton Park, which stretches from the pales (palatia) called 'Nettell Pale' along the ditch of a wood called 'Ashleyhay,' to a certain meadow called Harpit? then to another pasture or more, called the \*'Mare Park,' or 'Barre Moor;' also one meadow called 'Harpe Meadow' and one enclosure between Harpe meadow and Caldwell spring, and also one pasture called "Caldwell Spring"† with all its appurtenances—to Sir John Gresley for his life; remainder to Elizabeth, one of his daughters.

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(481). GRESLEY DEED, 2 & 3 Philip & Mary (1555 A.D.)

Quit claim by Edward Wynter Esquire and Katherine his wife, d. of George Gresley, Kt., deceased, to William Gresley Kt., son and heir of Sir George, in consideration of 400 mares, and in fulfilment of an award of John, late Duke of Northumberland (by name of John, Earl of Warwick), and Lord William Pagett of Beaudesert, K.G., of all those lands &c. in Okethorpe, Donisthorpe, and Lynton (co. Derby), of one pasture, or meadow,

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\* No. 177 (on plan).

† No. 176.

called the "*Olde-land*," and another called the "*Ley-closse*," in Colton (co. Staffs.). The said lands having been acquired by the above-named George Gresley, kt. by feofment of Henry Ward, chaplain, and Thomas Gylbert, in trust, for the said Katherine for a term of years not yet expired on Oct. 20, 29 Hen. 8 (1537 A.D.) Dat' 29 Sept. 2 and 3 Philip and Mary (1555 A.D.)

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INGESTRE DEED (1575 A.D.) 17 Eliz.

Indenture made Jan. 19—17 queen Eliz—between Sir Walter Aston and Richard Hatton of Tixall yeoman by which Sir W. Aston, in consideration of the sum of £3 now paid him, lets to Richard Hatton 'Birchen Hayes' in Admaston, and also a piece of ground lying between 'Steven Wood' and Admaston field and also one other small piece of ground called \*'Aston croft' or Asheton Leys' 'lying within Colton field and adjoining to Steven wood aforesaid' now in the holding of the said Richard Hatton—For a yearly rent of 13s. 4d.—1575 A.D.

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INGESTRE DEED (1598 A.D.) 40 Eliz

Indenture of 26th October 40th of queen Elizabeth 1598 A.D. made between Thomas Gresley of Drake-lowe Esqre on the one part, and Robert Smythe and Richard Beardall of Colton on the other part—whereby Thomas Gresley in consideration of the sum of £40 hath demised and to farm lett to R. Smyth and R. Beardull, their heirs executors and assigns,

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\* Called previously "*Astelmscroft*." The property of Cradock, of Admaston, and within the field of Homeley.

all that several close or pasture called the 'Newe close' in Colton for 21 years at 20s. yearly rent.

Signed in the } Arthur Gresley  
presence of } and Thomas Royle.

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INGESTRE DEED (A.D. 1607) 4 James 1.

This indenture made the 4th day of Decbr. in the year of the reign of our sovereign Lord James by the Grace of God of England Scotland France and Ireland King—Defender of the faith &c—that is to say of England the 4th year and of Scotland the 40th year—*Between* George Gresley of Colton Lodge in the county of Stafford Esqre on the one part, and Erasmus Laundor of Rugeley in the said county of Stafford mercer, of the other part, *witnesseth* that the said George Gresley, for and in consideration of a certayne sum of money to him well and truly contented and paid, before the sealing and delivery of these presents, by the said Erasmus Laundor, and for divers other good considerations him at this present specially moving. He, the said George Gresley had demysed, graunted, sett and to farme lett, and by these presents doth demise graunt sett and to farme lett unto the said Erasmus Laundor, his heirs, executors, and assigns, all that close of land or pasture commonly called the Newe Leasowe with the appurtenances thereof lying and being within the Lordship of Colton in the said county of Stafford—adjoyning or lying nere the highway leading from Rugeley aforesaid towarde Colton, and now in the tenure and occupation of the said George Gresley, or



of his assigns or assignees, to have & to hold the said close of land or pasture with the appurtenances unto the said Erasmus Laundor his executors & assigns from the feast of the Annunciation of our blessed lady next ensuing the date hereof &c., &c., yielding and paying unto the said George Gresley his heirs and assigns five pounds of lawful money of England half yearly, at the feast of the Anunciation of our Lady & at the feast of St. Michael the arch-angel &c. signed Erasmus Laundor

In presence	}	Christopher Hunt
of		& 2 others.

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#### INGESTRE DEED (A.D. 1608). 5 James 1.

Indenture made 5th year of King James I. whereby George Gresley of Colton Esqre., lets, in consideration of the sum of threescore pounds (£60) to Anthony Wright of Morton, all that pasture commonly known as Roger 'Hayes' meadow in the parish of Colton for a 20 years' lease receiving a yearly rent of 43s. 4d. payable at Lady and Mehms in equal portions—

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#### INGESTRE (A.D. 1610) 7 James 1.

Indenture made Octbr. 9th in the 7th year of King James reign over England—witnesseth that whereas Sir Walter Aston Kt. hath of late purchased of Sir Thomas Gresley of Drakelowe & of George Gresley Esqre, son and heir apparent of the said Sir Thomas, his manour of Colton—of which a certain messuage, tenement, & lands in Blithbury—now in possession of Thomas Tooth—forms part—& whereas Sir

Walter Aston wishes to have a common recovery with double or treble voucher to cut off all remainders, which cannot be done unless Thomas Tooth first surrender all his rights in the said property. Therefore Thomas Tooth undertakes to make the surrender to Sir Walter Aston Kt. provided that he the said Sir Walter Aston pay to Thomas Tooth by Easter 1611 A.D. the sum of £1,000 in the church porch of the church of Colton.

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INGESTRE (A.D. 1611), 8 James 1.

Indenture made April 2nd in the 8th year of King James 1st reign over England, and 43rd over Scotland, between Sir Walter Aston of Tixall Kt. on the one part and George Gresley Esqre, son and heir of Sir Thomas Gresley of Drakelow Kt on the other part, witnesseth that Sir Walter Aston lets to George Gresley Esqre all that close pasture wood or woody ground, lying and being in the Lordship and parish of Coulton, called or known by the name of the '*Hurst wood*'—now or late in the holding of the said George Gresley—for 21 years next ensuing by the rent of £20. 4s. 8d.

Signed by George Gresley

In the presence }  
of } Thomas Astone

N.B.—Only a portion of the seal (a very fine one) remains, but it bears unmistakeably the arms of Gresley quarterly with those of De Wasteney.

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COLTON MILL—INGESTRE DEED (A.D. 1617).

This indenture made the 10th day of October in

the Raigne of our Sovereign Lorde James, by the grace of God of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, kinge, defender of the faith &c.,—that is to say of England France & Ireland the 15th, and of Scotland the 51st; Between Sir Walter Aston of Tixall, in the countie of Stafford Kt., and Barronett, and Dame Gartrude his wife, on the one part, and Richard Ruggeley\* of Hawkesyarde† in the said countie of Stafford Esqre, & Mary his wife on the other part, ‘Whereas the said Sir Walter Aston standeth seased in his demeasne as of ffee of & in the mannor of Colton, in the foresaid countie of Stafford, with the rightes, members and appurtenances thereof within the said manor thereto & tyme out of mynde‡ hath been a watercourse mill standing upon a watercourse drawn from the river of Trente, which said watercourse hath also tyme out of mynde been of right belonging to the said mill, and herewith used & occupied: But in regard there came not at all tymes sufficient water to the said mill they whose estate the said Sir Walter Aston hath in the said manor and mill, have of late tymes, under the title of the ancestors of the said Marie erected a weare or dame on the said river of Trente, and in respect that the said river, and the soyle underneath

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\* The Ruggeleys and others had previous suits about Colton Mill—v. Pleas 9 Ed. 2, 1316—25 and 26 Ed. 3, &c.

† The “Hawkesyarde” here mentioned did not stand where the present Hawkesyarde was built—but on the north side of the road between Rugeley and Armitage.

‡ Domesday Survey.

the same, both above & below & in the place where the same dame standeth, was the inheritance of the ancestors of the said Marie, and now is the inheritance of the said Marie, which said weare or dame was there first placed, and hath ever since been continued by the permission and under the tytle of the said Richard Ruggeley & Marie his wife, and of the ancestors of the said Marie—*Now* this indenture witnesseth that they, the said Richard Ruggeley and Marie his wife, for and in consideration of the rente and covenante in these presents specified and reserved and of the grants hereafter ensuing, have demysed set & to farme lett & by these presents do demyse sett & to farm lett unto the said Sir Walter Aston and dame Gartrude his wife and their assigns, the aforesaid weare or dame, and the playce & soyle whereupon the same standeth. And do also for them & either of them, their & either of their heires give & grant to the said Sir Walter Aston & Dame Gartrude his wife & their assigns, free license, libertie and authoritie for them and their assigns, & his and their workmen and servaunts to come and goe to and from the said weare or dame in, uppon and through the river of Trente, with boat or otherwise, to repaire or amende the said weare or dame. *To have & to hold* the aforesaid weare or dame the place & soyle whereupon the same standeth—and also the free libertie, license & authoritie to repaire & amend the same, as aforesaid, unto the said Sir Walter Aston and dame Gartrude his wife, their executors, administrators & assigns, from the date of these presents for &

during the terme of one & twentie years, from thence next ensuing & fully to be compleate & ended, *yealdinge* and payinge therefor yearly at the feast of St. Michael the arch-angell during the said terme unto the said Richard Ruggely & Marie his wife, & the heirs of the said Marie, the yearly rente or summe of sixpence of lawful English money—and the said R. Ruggeley & Marie his wife and either of them &c., do covenante and grante to & with the said Sir W. Aston & dame Gartrude his wife that they & their assigns may have hold & enjoy the foresaid premises by these presents graunted without the lawfull lett, trouble or interruption of either of them the said Richard Ruggeley & Marie or of any other person or persons lawfully clayming by from or under them or any of them. *In consideration* of which saide graunt & demyse, they the said Sir W. Aston and dame Gartrude his wife, for them & their heirs doe give and graunt to the said Richard Ruggeley & Marie his wife, & their assigns, to his her & their fishermen & servaunts free libertie to come into the south part of the said mill, commonly used for a stable, with his & their leapes Teneyes and other engines for the taking of Ffish, and to set & place the same in the fludgates and skutgates (shutgates?) of the said mill & to the saide mill belonging, in the times of fludde or any other tyme or tymes, as shall not be hurtfull or prejudicial to the gryndyng of the said mill. And the said Sir W. Aston and Dame Gartrude his wife—for them and their heirs, do demyse, graunt, and to farm lett unto

the said Richard Ruggeley and Marie his wife, their executors and assigns, the soale (sole, *i.e.*) and absolute fittinge of the said fluddgate and skutgates, and all the fish there to be taken, to have and to hold to them the said Richard and Marie, their heirs &c., from the date of these presents for and during the terme of twentie one yeares—and Sir W. Aston and Gartrude his wife shall not cause or procure, or willingly assent unto that any ffish shall be taken at Colton Mill, except by the said R. Ruggeley and Marie his wife, and by their servaunts and fishermen. In witness whereof the parties abovesaid to these present indentures alternately and interchangeably have putt to their hands and seals the day and yeare above written. 1617 A.D.

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#### INGESTRE DEED (1644 A.D.) 19 Ch. 1.

Indenture made in the 19th year of King Charles 1st, between the Rt. Honble. Walter Lord Aston of Forfar on the one part, and Herbert Aston of Coulton on the other part, *witnesseth* that Walter Lord Aston in consideration of the full and just sum of £250, paid to him by the said Herbert Aston, doth give and graunt unto the said Herbert Aston a rent charge of £20 yearly out of the Huld wood (*old wood*?) and Hurst wood, being parts of the manor of Coulton—the said annuity or rent charge to be paid half-yearly by equal portions, at Xmas term £10—and at the feast of St. John the Baptist £10, and if not paid within fourteen days of its falling due at any time, it shall be lawful for Herbert Aston



or his heirs &c. to enter upon the said Huld (*i.e.*, old) and Hurst woods and distrain for the amount due—Provided always that if Lord Aston repays the £250 with all arrears then this rent charge shall cease —

Signed in the presence of { Thomas Aston  
Henry Thimelby  
and Edward Jollie

N.B.—The parchment has been much damaged apparently by fire.

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INGESTRE DEED (A.D. 1645), 20 Ch. 1.

Indenture made July 9th, 20th year of King Charles I. Between the Rt. Honble. Walter (2nd) Lord Aston and Gertrude Aston his sister—*witnesseth* that Lord Aston is engaged to the said Gertrude Aston for £500.—one jewell with many stones of dyamonds therein contayned, esteemed worth about the sum of £1,500 of lawful money, formerly given to Lord Aston their father by Philip 4th, King of Spaine, at the time the said Lord Aston the father came from the said king of Spain, being sent thither as ambassador out of England from our Sovereign Lord Charles the Kinges majesty that now is over England—it was delivered unto the said Gertrude Aston—now for that the said Gertrude Aston is contented to re-deliver unto the said Lord Aston her brother the said jewell, to the end that he may make his best advantage thereof—and also for the securing of the said sum of £500 to be well and truly paid to the said Gertrude his sister by her brother Lord Aston—according to the intent and meaning of Lord

Aston their father, deceased—He, the said Walter Lord Aston party to these presents, for the consideration aforesaid and for divers other good considerations him moving, Hath and does demyse and lett &c. to the said Gertrude Aston all that Manor or Lordship of Colton in Staffis with all its rights including the advowson and patronage of the Church of Colton, services, Courte Leet and Court Baron, perquisites of Court &c. to have and to hold to her Gertrude Aston, from and immediately after the decease of the Rt. Honble. Gertrude Lady Aston, mother of the said Lord Aston and of Gertrude Aston, for the full term of 99 years. Provided always that if Lord Aston pay to Gertrude his sister on or before the feast of St. Thomas the Apostle (whith Kalbe ?) in the year of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, according to the computation of the Church of England 1645 A.D.—at or in the Cathedrall Church of Lichfield £500—or if, in default of payment he there and then give up the jewell with dyamonds to her—then this demise and agreement shall cease and be void—Failing such payment Gertrude Aston is fully to enjoy possession of Colton for 99 years.

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(1651 A.D.)

Indenture whereby Lord Aston's trustees Benjamin Weston, Herbert Aston, Sir Wm. Persall and Robert Robotham of Grey's Inn, towards making payment for Lord Aston's debts, sell to Thomas Barwicke of Admaston all that close called \*'Ffowell' containing

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\* Ffowell, modern " Fullwell," No. 661, &c. (on plan).

6 acres or thereabouts in Colton, lately in the tenure of George Wright, joining on the north Sir Hervey Bagot's land, and on the south east the land of Sampson Boughey gentleman, and on the west and south the land of Ralphe Bate and Humphrey Webb, and also sell to him all that pasture known as \*Hunger Hill in Colton containing 2 acres lately held by the said George Wright—adjoining the lands of Walter Fowler Esqre on the south and the lands of Ralphe Bate on the north—and further they sell him all that piece of land lying in Wilderley field in the lordship of Colton, lately held by Sampson Brett, adjoining the land of the aforesaid R. Bate—and further they sell him one other piece of land about half an acre, formerly belonging to a tenement late in the hands of Widow Smith of Newland deceased, lying on the west side of a close of Sir Hervey Bagott, called or known by the name 'Upper Sych'† heretofore taken forth of Hamley‡ field in the lordship of Blythfeld.

#### INGESTRE DEED (A.D. 1654).

This Indenture between the Rt. Honble. Gertrude Lady Aston of Coulton Hall in the County of Stafford widow, the Rt. Honble. Walter Lord Aston Baron of Forfar, Benjamin Weston, of Ashley House, in Surrey, Esqr., Herbert Aston of Coulton, William

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\* Hanger or Honger—"a hill"—if this is the true derivation, then *Hunger hill* is as unnecessary as *Hurst wood* (No. 645).

† *Rushisych*? SYCH = rivulet.

‡ *Hamley* field in the "lordship" of *Blithfield*,—this strengthens the identification of "Astelmscroft."

Persall of Cannall Kt. and Robert Robotham of Gray's Inn Esqre on the one part and Christopher Prescott of Coulton Hall aforesaid yeoman, servant to the said Lady Aston, and Anne his wife on the other part—Witnesses that Lady Aston and the aforesaid five persons in consideration of £30 paid to Walter Lord Aston by Christopher Prescott and his wife, have demised, granted, sett and to farm let to Christopher and Anne two cottages and all those enclosed grounds called, Park leasowe, Marsh leasowe, filley croft and Stockwell Heath, with a day's work of land in Saintaffe, now or late in the tenure of one Raphael Hunt, and situated in Coulton—to have and to hold after Raphael Hunt's death for four score and nineteen years if they shall live so long for a yearly rent of 20s.—and at the death of the survivor of the said Ch. Prescott and Anne his wife, 40s. shall be paid in the name of a heriot,—and Christopher and Anne bind themselves to appear at all and every court which shall be holden for and within the manor of Coulton, and to grind all their corn and malt\* at the mills of Gertrude Lady Aston. (Signed by Christopher Prescott and Anne Prescott).

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INGESTRE DEED (A.D. 1659).

Indenture made 31st day of October in the year of our Lord God 1659, between Charles Stanley of Honnesworth, Staffs, gentleman on the one part, and Herbert Aston of Bellamore in the parish of Coulton

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\* The obligation had continued in force (v. dispute between the Wasteneys and others).

on the other part. Witnesseth, and that the said Charles Stanley for and in consideration of the rent of £30 yearly, hath demysed and lett to Herbert Aston all those closes and parcells of land meadow and pasture in Colton and Colwich\* or either of them that is to say †Birchen Close, Cawdwell Spring, Martlyn and 8 acres at the upper end of the 21 acre Park, as it is now parted from the rest with a payle, belonging to the demesne of Colton—and also all ways, waters, rights easements, liberties, &c., to them belonging and also all the tithes of the said Charles Stanley of corn grain and hay arising from these lands or any of them which the said Charles Stanley

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\* Within the boundaries of Colton parish (or Constablewick) there are 90 acres 2 roods 14 perches, belonging to the ancient episcopal manor of Gt. Haywood, from which manor, by arrangement made subsequent to Domesday Survey, the present parish of *Colwich* was formed, taking that name because the church stood in Colwich ; although as late as Henry 8th's time †Haywood, and even Shugboro', were far more populous. These small fragments of an adjoining estate, scattered here and there in Colton, were originally, we conclude, occupied by stragglers who migrated from their homes, while still retaining their clanship and connection with the parent stem. Thus, when the lands of a single family, or those held under one lord (the Bishop, in the present instance) became a manor, members of the more populous or powerful manor would be found beyond their original border—just as portions of counties are found to have crossed the border of another's territory, while jealously retaining their ancient ties.—*vide* “Muster Rolls,” temp. H. 8, †Record Office.

† “Birchen Close,” No. 172 (on plan). The order of the fields here confirms the statement that the “Springs,” and “Caldwell Spring” are identical.

lately purchased for ever of the Rt. Honble. Walter Lord Aston, Richard Bagot of Blithfield and William Farmer of the Borough of Stafford.—The rent to be paid on Novbr 1st and April 25th.

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#### INGESTRE DEED (A.D. 1660).

Indenture of May 20th (12 Charles 2nd).

Between Lord Aston and George Wright of Coulton whereby Lord Aston lets to George Wright the ground called the ‘Hurst Wood’ or ‘Coulton Hadley’—*belonging to the demesne of the manor of Coulton\** and now held by G. Wright aforesaid—estimated at 24 acres—on an 18 years lease, and for a rent of £16 a year.

Herbert Aston is one of the witnesses.

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#### INGESTRE DEED (A.D. 1660).

Indenture of July 4. 12 Charles 2. between Walter Lord Aston and the Honble Herbert Aston his brother, Edward Bagott son and heir of Sir Hervey Bagott, Walter Chetwynde the younger son and heir apparent of Walter Chetwynde of Grendon in Warwickshire, Richard Bagott brother of Sir Hervey, &c., of the one part, and the said Sir Hervey Bagott of the other part, *witnesseth* that for the securing of a sum of money, for a certain number of years hereafter mentioned, and in consideration of a sum lent by Sir H. Bagott to the said Lord Aston and Herbert Aston, and of a nominal sum of 5 shillings to the

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\* This proves the situation of the Wastineys *demesne* land, and that it included the “Hurst Wood.”



other persons above mentioned have sold to Sir H. Bagott all that land meadow and pasture known as the 'Hurst Wood' in Coulton now or late in the tenure or occupation of George Wright, to have and to hold for the term of 99 years. Provided nevertheless that if the said Herbert Aston or his heirs shall well and truly pay to Sir H. Bagott the yearly sum of £12 for the next 60 years—if Humphrey Webb and William Webb, sons of Humphrey Webb of Colton, or either of them, shall so long live—and during the life of the survivor of them, &c. The said payments to be made at Blithfield.

Indorsed, "Demise of Hurstwood from Lord Aston and Herbt. Aston to Sir H. Bagott for payment of £12 yearly by Herbert Aston—during the lives of Humphrey and Wm. Webb."

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#### INGESTRE DEED (A.D. 1679).

Indenture made 23rd of March 31 Charles 2nd. between William Chetwynd of Rugeley and Herbert Aston of Coulton—witnesseth that William Chetwynd lets to Herbert Aston all that parcell of meadow in 'Mare Park,' which lyeth next to Rugeley, containing by estimation 10 acres or thereabouts, with all rights thereto belonging—from Febry. 2nd last past. for a rent of £9 to be paid at the two usual feasts.

Signed by Wm. Chetwynd.

In the presence of { John Collier,  
John Pollett,  
Humphrey Webb,  
Frank Doody.

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## INGESTRE DEED (A.D. 1695). 7 WM. 3.

Noverint universi et presentes nos Johem Aston de Colton in com' Staffordiœ armigerum' et Herbertum Aston de Colton in com' predict generos', teneri et firmiter obligari Johñi Wiggin de eadem villa de Colton yeomen, in centum viginti libris bonœ et legal' monetœ Angliœ—solvend' 'eidem Johñi Wiggin, aut suo cert 'attorn' executor 'administrator' vel assignat 'suis, ad quam quidem solvendm bone et fidelit' faciend' obligamus nos et utrumque nostrum per se toto et in' solido hæred' Exec'et administra't &c—Dat' undecimo die Aprilis anno regni Dni nostri Willielmi Tertii, dei gratia nunc regis Angl' &c. septimo, anno domini 1695.

The condicion of this obligacion is such that if the above bounden John Aston and Herbert Aston or either of them, their heirs &c. shall and do well and truly pay to John Wiggen £60 with the lawful interest for the same on Octbr 11th next ensuing, then this present obligacion shall be void—or otherwise it is to remain in full force.

£5 p.c. to be the rate of interest.

Sealed and delivered by John Aston and Herbert Aston

In the presence of } John Morrell,  
                                      } Ann Cheswyes.  
                                      } John Weston.

N.B.—There are 8 receipts on the back signed by the 'mark' of John Wiggen and Dated from 1697 to July 1704 A.D., as John Aston gradually paid off the amount due.

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## INGESTRE DEED (A.D. 1679).

This indenture made the 24th March in the 31st year of the reign of our Sovereign Ld. Charles by the grace of God of England, Scotland, France and Ireland king D of F &c., between Thomas Collier of Coulton in the county of Stafford Yeoman, on the one part, and Herbert Aston of Coulton aforesaid Esqre on the other part, witnesseth that the said Thomas Collier for and in consideration of the yearly rent hereafter in these presents expressed &c, hath Demised granted set and to farm let unto the said Herbert Aston all that close called ' Martlin ' lying and being in Coulton aforesaid, which said close the said Thomas Collier holdeth of William Chetwynd of Rugeley Esqre, and all ways, waters commons profits commodities privileges emoluments and appurtenances to the said close or any part belonging used or appertaining, or to or with the same heretofore let used occupied or enjoyed, and also all the tithes of corn, grain, hay, and all other tithes whatsoever of him the said Thomas Collier.

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(A.D. 1710)

Whereas the Honble. Walter Aston hath purchased in the name of Thomas Sawyer gentlem. the capitall messuage of Bellamore, and several lands tenements and hereditaments, together with the profitts of the *Manor of Colton*; & whereas there are two severall annuities charged on the said premises, or some part thereof—namely £12 for and payable to one Willm. Webb during his life, and £3 4s. 6d. payable to

‘ Belcher ’ widow during her life, now the said John Aston doth covenant and agree to & with the said Walter Aston, that he the said Walter shall & may retain in his hands the sum of £200, part of the purchase money for the said premises, until the death of William Webb and widow Belcher, or the longer liver of them, for his indemnification against the two annuities aforesaid, &c., &c. Nov. 30th, 1710.

Sealed and delivered by John Aston.

In the presence | Willm. Fowler and  
of | Henry Morrell.

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A.D. 1725.

This Indenture made Decbr. 9. 1725—between Rt. Honble. Walter Lord Aston & John Webb of Hamstall, Staffordshire, witnesses that Lord Aston has leased to the said John Webb all that piece of boggy or marsh ground, being part of Stockwell Heath, within the lordship and parish of Coulton, lying between the king’s highway leading over the said Heath on the one side and John Webbs land on the other side and estimated to contain 3 acres, &c.

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COLTON MUSTER ROLL (1539 A.D.) 652 M. 20.

George Smyth, constable.

A (= able-bodied).

Ar. (= Archer.)

A. George Smyth, horse and harness for a man.

Ar. John Smyth, horse, harness for a man.

- A. Richard Holway, horse, harness for a man.  
Thomas Adams, harness complete for a man.
- A. Richard Shepherd, harness for a man.  
Edmund Norton, horse, harness for a man.
- A. Heugh Averell, harness for a man, and a byll.
- A. John Mastrer, horse, harness for a man, and a byll.
- Ar. Nicholas Buttler, a bow and 24 arrows, a byll,  
and pair of splyntz.  
Thomas Pesche.
- A. Hugh Fowton, a gestorne\* and a byll.
- A. William Baddeley, a jack and harness for a man.
- A. Thomas Bywater, a byll and splyntz.
- A. John Swinnerton, horse, harness for a man.
- A. Robert Atkyns, a byll.  
Thomas Geffra(y), a byll.
- A. Richard Watson, horse, harness for a man, and a byll.  
William Buttler, a paire of splyntz.†
- Ar. Thomas Buttler, a bow and 12 arrows.
- A. John Adams, a byll.

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\* Written also "Gesterne" and "Gesturne"; General Wrottesley informs me that this is not another form of Ghisarme, or two-edged battle-axe, but equivalent to *Jesseraunt* (*v.* the "Morte Arthur") described by Halliwell as "a jacket with sleeves—covered with oblong pieces of steel, sewn on it, and overlapping"—he gives it as *Gesteraune*.

† Splynts = Gauntlets: the actual splints were, I believe, the pieces of steel on the back of the gauntlet or glove. [This muster roll should have been inserted *before* the Colton Chartulary, among the miscellaneous papers, but was not copied in time; General Wrottesley has kindly corrected it.]

- A. Thomas Wyggan, horse, harness for a man,  
and a byll.  
Robert Hoffe, a byll.  
Hugh Demacke (= Dymok?).  
William Balle.
- A. Raulfe Perton, a byll.  
Roger Gefferd.
- A. William Harryson, a byll.  
Thomas Hande, a salet,\* and a pair of splyntz.  
William Bente, a gesterne and a byll.  
George à Leys, a bow and twelve arrows.  
John Molle.
- A. John Holdacars (Old-acres).
- A. Hugh Felipe.  
John Pane.
- A. Crystover Bradbere, a byll.
- A. Roger Tawst, a byll.  
John Alcocke.  
William Butler.
- A. Richard Wyggan.
- A. James Butler.
- A. Roger Holdacars.  
John Tawsche.  
William Tawsche. Total 43.

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Before we close this history of Colton, it may be well to insert the following scattered notices which bear upon the subject.—The Pleas of 3 H. 6 (1425 A.D.) show Sir John Gresley, Kt., suing John

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\* A Salet is a light helmet.



Straunge, of Darley (Staffs.), yeoman, for breaking into his close at Colton, and taking two cows and two calves worth 40s. (m. 230 d.). In 1430 (8 H. 6) William Arneston, appearing for the King, sued Roger (Hode) the "parysshe prest" of Colton, chaplain, Roger Boweland of Drakelow, chaplain, and Thomas "Atte Halle" of Colton, labourer, for breaking into the King's Park at Barton (under-Needwood?) and chasing and taking his wild animals (feras). None of them appeared. (M. 459 d.) (S. H. C. vol. 17, p. 127-8). This joint expedition for poaching is little to the credit of the two priests! especially of Roger Hode, who had drawn one of his parishioners into the scrape.

The 2nd John Gresley, chevalier, enrolled for service in France (*v. supra*, page 110), *may* be identical with this Sir John of 6 H. 6; if, as General Wrottesley suggests, "The Sir John Gresley who heads that second roll, has not been written by mistake for Sir Thomas (who was not then above 50 years of age), for, when abbreviated, these names have a considerable resemblance in old writing." Supposing there were two Sir Johns, the latter "might possibly belong to the 'Edingale' branch of the family."

The Post-mortem Inquisition (22 Ric. 2, M. 19) taken at Lincoln, March 4, 1398-9 A.D., before the Escheator of the county, states, that, through the death of Thomas late Earl of Stafford, and by reason of the minority of William his brother and heir, which William, lately died, while under age

and in the King's wardship; there came into the King's hands, among other Knight's fees in that county, the fourth part of one Kts. fee in Thurleby, which William Wastness lately held; and it is worth 20s. by the year: the moiety of a Kts. fee in Brassynburgh, which the same William lately held, and it is worth 50s. yearly; one Kts. fee in Carleby, which the same William lately held, and it is worth 100s. by the year, &c. And they say the aforesaid William de Stafford died on April 6, 1395 A.D.; and that Edmund his brother is the heir, and is more than 21 years of age. These Lincolnshire fees which the Wasteney's held under de Stafford, had been entailed on Thomasine, William's sister, failing heirs male; Joan Toly, their mother, had held them apparently until her death in 1393 A.D.—but in 1398 A.D. they had clearly passed to Thomasine, who leases the manor of Braceborough, and  $\frac{1}{2}$  the advowson of Carleby. to her son Sir Thomas de Gresley. The death of Wm. Wastneys, the last male of the main line, must therefore have occurred circa 1396-7 A.D.? This further notice of William de Wastneys should have appeared at page 85 (*v. supra*).

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### De Wasteney's of Tixall.

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Very little mention is made by Mr. Clifford of that branch of the de Wasteney's family which was certainly seated at Tixall in 1164-5 A.D., and continued to take an active part in the affairs of the

neighbourhood down to the fifteenth century. They must have gained possession subsequently to the Survey, but the exact date remains uncertain, the first available evidence being the Pipe-roll of 13 H. 2. (Vol. 1. S. H. Coll., p. 51), when Geoffrey's manor of Tixall is fined for forest trespass; confirmed and explained by the *Liber Niger* entry (1166 A.D.), where Robert de Stafford's manors of Tixall and Caldon are identified with the  $1\frac{1}{3}$  Kts. fees held by Geoffrey de Wastineys; Tixall and Broncote being in his demesne (S. H. C., Vol. 1, pp. 177-8); the other half in the occupation of William de Caldon (Caldon-on-the-Moors).

Sir Geoffrey's successor was the Pagan, or Payne, le Wastineys, who attested William Corbuson's grant of Chillington Manor to Peter Gifford *c.* 1176-84 A.D. (S. H. C. Vol. 3, p. 204-5); and that of Alice de Hopton to Ralph Bret, *c.* 1184-93. We learn from the assize rolls of 1199 A.D. that he was murdered by one Stephen while a guest in the house of William the chaplain. Fifty years later a curious suit tried between the King and a second Payne le Wastineys, about the jurisdiction of the Dean of St. Mary's, Stafford, over the free chapel (church) of Tixall, throws further light on the Wastineys descent. It seems (*v.* Mr. Chetwynd Stapleton's excellent "History of the Chetwynds") that the royal chapels of the old Mercian border, Stafford, Penkridge, Gnosall, and Wolverhampton, had claimed to be exempt from the Bishop's authority; they preferred that of the Pope, as less likely to

interfere, and called themselves "free." In the twelfth century Bishop Clinton obtained a grant of them from the Crown, but the Stafford chapter in King John's time contrived to evade this, the King founding for them a new church, St. Mary's; while they left the more ancient St. Chad's, which was subject to the Bishop. In this suit of 1249 A.D. the jurors (whose names are given below)\* made oath that the ancestors of Payne (2) le Wastineys had always presented a clerk, when a vacancy occurred at Tixall, to the Dean of the King's Chapel of St. Mary's, Stafford (or to the chapter of St. Mary's, if the Dean chanced to be absent from England at the time), a rule which had held good until Geoffrey le Wastineys, Payne's ancestor, came in King John's time and took away a certain body, which ought to have been buried there, caused it to be buried elsewhere, and afterwards presented his clerk to the *Bishop of the diocese*, thereby infringing on the rights of the Dean and chapter of St. Mary's. Evidently Geoffrey sided with the Bishop, and attempted to sever the tie between his church of Tixall and St. Mary's, Stafford, while it seems likely enough, comparing this statement with Payne's (1) murder, that he had removed Payne's body for burial with others of his family; certainly

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\* They were Robert de Grendon—Robert de Esington—Robert Bagot of Holedale, William Griffin, Hugh de Galetton (Gayton), Richard de Draycote, Thomas de Creswell, Eudo de Saut (Salt), Richard Meverel, William de Tyllingham, William Meverel, Hugh de Acovre, Richard de Saundon (Sandon).

it suggests that Geoffrey (2) succeeded Payne (1) at Tixall c. 1199 A.D., and was himself followed by the second Payne le Wastineys (33 H. 3. S. H. Coll., Vol. 4, p. 112).

There is an earlier reference to the latter in the abbreviatio Placitorum of 10 H. 3. (A.D. 1226) where a trial occurs between Geoffrey Griffin and this Payne de Wasteneys on the one side, and Matilda de Elkeston, who had accused them of unjustly depriving her of her freehold in Elkeston, on the other. The abstracts from the chartulary of St. Thomas' Priory (506 Harl. MS. B. Museum, printed in Staffs. H. Coll., Vol. 8) witness that several members of this Tixall line were successively benefactors of the Priory, but that did not prevent a claim being raised concerning common of pasture in Tyxhall—one of the most frequent subjects of dispute at a time when inclosures were little known. The question was decided between the Prior and Payne le Wastineys in the year 1258 A.D. (vide Patent rolls 42. H. 3). Five years later Payne is noticed in the Testa de Neville as holding 2 kts. fees in Tixal. About the same time he witnessed a deed of Sir Wm. de Wasteneys of Colton.

Payne de Wasteneys left four sons—Henry, Geoffery, Ralph, and Robert. If we are to identify Geoffrey with the Geoffrey le Wastineys the priest whom Henry presented to Tixall rectory. Henry, the eldest, is described as Lord of Tixall in a grant to him and to Alice (Bagot?) his wife, from William Bagot, lord of Bromley (*v.* appendix). The date

may be fairly conjectured from the mention made of William le Wasteneys and William le Jovene (Mavesyn), of Little Hay.) (Henry must have died early, for in A.D. 1287-8 (*v.* Patent and Plea rolls) Eva de Oswaldstree, Adam de Chetwynd's widow, guardian of the land and heir of Henry le Wasteneys (who had died in the reign of Henry III.) brought an action of \*d'arrein presentment concerning Tixall church against Geoffrey le Wastineys, Henry's son and heir. It seems that Geoffrey had previously (1285 A.D.) accused her of making waste and damage in the houses and lands of his inheritance.

Of Ralph de Wastineys, who, there is good reason to conclude, was a younger son of Payne, we shall have to speak on another occasion. It will be sufficient to add now that he attests a deed of Sir Geoffrey's, confirming "to God and to Richard, Prior of St. Thomas," two clearings of land in a wood ("assarta") outside the gate of the aforesaid priory (Harl. MS. B. M. 506). The deed bears date in 1295 A.D. Kirby's quest speaks of Walter de Wasteneys holding in Tixall, Hawergate, and Bromcote 1 kts. fee, but this is doubtless the same person as Geoffrey (Galfridus being sometimes translated Walter). In 1306 Philip de Chetwynd sued Sir Geoffrey for *illegally detaining his cattle*—the

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\* "Assisa ultimæ presentationis"; or "Trial of d'arrein presentment," was an action for the right of patronage by enquiring who took the precedent terms of presentation, for the easier discovery and settling of the property.



first apparently of many disputes between the families of Chetwynd and de Wasteneys, who were too near neighbours to be free from continually clashing interests, especially connected with rights of pasture in Tixall and Ingestre. Sir Geoffrey was possessed of some small property in Colton, for in 1314 he granted a tenement there to Henry, called Coleman. Two years later we meet with his signature to a deed of Hugh de Hanygate (Ingestre deeds). In 1332 Geoffrey le Wasteneys witnesses a recognizance for 500 marks from Vivian de Staundon to Roger de Swynnerton (Salt. MSS.) The Burton Abbey Chartulary mentions him in 18 Ed. 2. Previously (in 21 Ed. 1) tho' of full age—and holding a full knight's fee—he had not yet been knighted, and was therefore in “misericordia.” Finally in 17 Ed. 2 he was among the jury who convicted the Abbot of Burton with appropriating part of the Earl of Lancaster's treasure, after the battle at Burton Bridge, but it was alleged that he was one of the Abbot's evil-wishers. Of his four sons, by Eleanor his wife, Maculine (or Malcolm), John, Henry, and William, the eldest, Malcolm de Wasteneys, was accused in the year 1316 (Coram rege rolls) together with one John Hodinet of Weston, by Joan, widow of Philip de Draycote, for carrying off by force from Hopton, Margaret, the daughter and co-heiress of Henry de Salt, whose marriage belonged to her. In 1329 A.D. with Margaret his wife (vide Patent rolls) he sued Isabella, who was the wife of Philip de Chetwynd, for

tenements in Ingestre and Heywode. The same rolls this year record that Henry de Wastneys his brother, was tried with may others for hunting in Nedwode forest, without the permission of Henry Earl of Lancaster, taking away the Earl's deer, and assaulting his keepers. Malcolm witnessed a grant conveying land in Colton from John Bonde, of L. Ridware, in 1332 (Ingestre deeds); and one of Sir Thomas de Wasteneys's executed at Colton in 1333.\* Besides heading the Tixall subsidy roll of 6 Ed. 3, the following year he defended an action for pasture rights brought by Geoffrey le Bottiller and Joan his wife. Three years later, further proof occurs of the quarrel between them, when the same Geoffrey de la Botellerie sues Malculm Wasteneys, Kt., Wm. de Donyngton, and Robert le Heyward, in a plea that they, together with Geoffrey, "Malcolm-prest, Wasteneys" (*i.e.*, Geoffrey Wasteneys, his priest?) had beaten and wounded him at Tyxhall, taken away his horse, worth 40s., and his goods to the value of £5, while the very next year, Malcolm, in his turn, is suing Geoffrey le Botiller and Joan his wife, with John the son of Joan, for forcibly cutting down his timber at Tixhall to the same amount.

In 1337 A.D. he was appointed, together with John de Stafford and others, to collect the King's scutage in this country—the appointment, which was dated from the Tower, and may be seen among the Fine Rolls, appears to have been successful, for his name occurs as charged with collecting the 10ths

and 15ths granted to the King by Parliament the year following, when he was again representing Staffordshire, together with Richard de Peshale. The Patent Rolls of 1339 A.D. (12 Ed. 3) number Malcolm among the five persons chosen to survey the arraying of men for defence of the country against invasion, and to assist Richard Earl of Arundel and Thomas de Berkeley, whom the King had despatched for that purpose into Staffordshire. Malcolm's tenure of a few acres in Colton, under John Bagot, has been already noticed (*v.* the Pleas of 12. Ed. 3). The Final Concords of the following year show us Malcolm and Margaret his wife settling on Joan, daughter of Thomas de Grenham, 16 messuages, 8 virgates, and 32 acres of meadow in Tixall and Broncote, to hold of them for life, rendering a rose yearly; to revert to Malcolm and his wife, and their heirs at her death, probably a collusive suit. We have omitted to notice that in 12. Ed. 3 the King sued Malcolm, son of Geoffrey Wasteneys, and John, son of Malcolm, for the next presentation to Tixall church (or "free chapel"). The Pleas of 16. Ed. 3 1343 A.D. record Adam de Chetwynde's charge against John, son of Henry de Wastineys (the nephew of Malcolm), and Margaret his wife, Richard de Wastneys, John's brother, and Alice Wastneys, Richard's sister, that they, together with Malcolm their uncle, and his wife Margaret, had broken into Adam's house at Tixall, and beaten and wounded him, besides taking his goods to the value of £20. The same year Malcolm paid a fine

of 10s. for a writ of Oyer and Terminer, a grand jury cause, in the county—we should probably be justified in concluding that Malcolm de Wasteney was known to be a man of considerable ability and influence, but, owing perhaps to his office of superintending the collection of the royal revenue (a charge which was again entrusted to his hands in 1349), he seems to have been exceedingly unpopular among his neighbours, as the Patent rolls of 1344 A.D. testify, where several judges are named to hear and determine his complaint against Sir John Bagot, Kt., Alice, who was the wife of Sir Philip de Chetwynd, Kt., Ralph Bagot, Ralph de Chetwynd, and some thirty more, as malefactors and disturbers of the king's peace—they having forcibly entered his mill at Tixall, and the pool of the same mill at Ingestrie and Haywode, and carried away the timber of the mill and the piles and wattles of the pool to the value of £100 (a large sum in those days) and having otherwise injured him and broken the peace. (Feb. 8, 1344.) Rymer prints a special writ of military summons issued after the king's departure by the custos of the kingdom (19 Ed. 3 1346) to Kts. and others *citra Trent* to join this expedition into France—*ultra Trent* being summoned to resist the Scots—Malcolm de Wasteney's name occurs amongst the former. In 1358 A.D. he sued Simon, Vicar of Sandon, the executor of Adam de Chetwynde's will, for a debt of £2. William, son

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\* The members for Staffordshire in the Parliament of 1333-4 were Malcolm de Wasteney and Robert de Dutton.

of Malcolm, his father's successor at Tixall, held the same office for the collection of the royal tenths and fifteenths in 1371 A.D.—being then under age—apparently in recognition of his father's services; and again six years afterwards. He was declared to be the heir male of William le Wasteneys of Elton in Cheshire, as we learn from the Cheshire *post mortem* inquisitions 1384, 7 R. 2, but apparently only to a small portion of the estate, worth 20s. yearly, for it was not until the death of Agnes, only child of the aforesaid William de Wasteneys and wife of William de Bradburne of Chester, A.D. 1411, that he succeeded to the whole property as next of kin. It is expressly stated that he was then 60 years old, so that he must have been born A.D. 1351.—Agnes de Bradburne was his first cousin twice removed—Subsequently he sold Elton Manor, then valued at 22 marks a year, to Hugh and John de Holes, to whom he seems previously to have granted the reversion in 1396.

As early as 1355 A.D. (28 Ed. 3), the Plea rolls prove William Wasteneys was suing Ralph le Parker of Charteley, for sending cattle to trespass on his growing corn at Tixeshale. In 1364, as Lord of Tixall, he attests a deed of John de Gresley, with Ralph Bagot, then Lord of Blithfield, and in 1383 A.D. witnesses a grant of Hanyard land to St. Thomas Priory. Possibly William's action was during his father's lifetime, for the Tixall trespass is explained by an Aston deed (in Chetwynd's MSS. collection) stating that Malcolm de Wastineys, in 23 Ed. 3



(*i.e.*, 1350), had conveyed to William Wastineys, his eldest son, and his heirs, the manor of Tixall; James and John de Stafford, and John de Aston, Kts., being witnesses.

William de Wasteneys of Tixall left behind him a family, consisting of two sons and two daughters, living at his death; of the latter one daughter, Matilda, married an Eyton, and on her and her heirs male Roger de Wasteneys, who succeeded his father in the estate (during that father's lifetime as it appears), settled the Tixall Manor and advowson, failing his own heirs, but failing further heirs by her, then on Roger his younger brother (*vide* Ingestre deed). It seems strange that two brothers should have borne the same name, but the deed establishes the fact unquestionably; and similar instances occur from time to time. A Retinue roll of the Earl of Stafford, about 1384 A.D., names Roger Wasteynes among the esquires—a Worcester-shire assize of 16. R. 2, about a carucate of land in Wolvardeleye, which Ralph Pychford had formerly given to Geoffrey Wasteneys and Alianor, his wife, is valuable, as giving Roger's descent through William and Maculine to Geoffrey, his great grandfather (vol. 15. S.H.C., p. 55). We find him charging William de Slyndon with forcibly breaking into his (Roger's) land at Stafford, and carrying away goods to the value of £5, two years later, and in 18. Ric. 2 one Richard Eggesley was attached at his suit for having taken forcibly from Tixall his wheat, barley, &c., with timber, brass and wooden



vessels, linen and clothes, to the value of 20 marcs, besides carrying off his native and servant, one Henry Aleyn, for which he claimed £40. Again, 20. Ric. 2, he is found suing William de Asshe for suffering his house at Tixall to become dilapidated, contrary to agreement. The Pleas of 1. H. 4 prove that the Wolvardeleye land claim was still undecided—it again stood over, a postscript adds (vol. 15. S.H.C., p. 92), owing to King Richard II.'s abdication.

After the death of Phillippa, his first wife, Roger the elder married Ann, whose name is given in a deed dated July 7th, 4. H. 4 (possibly an error for 4. H. 5, A.D. 1417), by which Thomas Wyleby and Richard Say grant and confirm to him and Ann his wife the Manor of Tixhall, together with the advowson of the free chapel there, which they lately had of the gift of the aforesaid Roger, to have and to hold, to him and his heirs by Ann, in tail, or if he die childless, then to her for her life, and afterwards to his next heirs. In A.D. 1418 Roger and Ann de Wasteneys appoint John de Wodehous and Richard Say their attornies against the Crown, on a traverse of an action touching the Manors of Bertherton and Grayste and tenements in Salterssyche, Wyghtreston and Wylaston (*vide* Report of the Deputy Keeper of P. Records for 1876, part 2), proving that he had considerable property besides that at Tixall. The other sister Alianor married a Harcourt. With Rose, the only child of Roger and Ann de Wasteneys, the Tixall branch of the Wasteneys

family ended in the main line. Having no issue by her marriage with Sir John Merston, Kt., she sold the reversion of these estates to the Littletons. She seems previously to have meditated parting with her life interest in Tixall Manor for a yearly sum of £24 (*vide* Ingestre deed 1461 A.D.), even if the arrangement was not finally made. We learn from a deed, quoted by Dugdale, that Rose repudiated all connection with the de Wasteneyes of Colton, then represented by Sir John de Gresley, Kt., quoting in evidence her descent from Payne de Wasteneyes accurately enough, though had she known how to carry back the pedigree to Liber Niger, Sir John Gresley's claim might have been differently regarded.

The deed alluded to is an agreement concerning the reversion of Tixall Manor, instanced by Dugdale to prove the care shown by all concerned in levying "Fines," but chiefly valuable to our present purpose because of the light which it throws upon the pedigree of the Tixall line: it runs as follows—(8th Ed. 4) "To all Christian men, to whom this present wryting shal come, Rose, that was the wyff of Sir John Merston, Kt., sendeth greeting in God everlasting:" Know ye me the saide Rose to sey and affirme, that Thomas Littleton oon of the King's Justices of the Common place, bargayned, bought, and purchased for a certeine summe of money, which he hath duly payd, the reversion of the Maner of Tixall in Staffordshire, and of certeine Tenements and Rents in other Towns in the same

Shire, of the said John Marston, sumtyme my husband, and of me, to have after the decece of my said husband and me: by force of which a Fyne was rered at Westmynster; by which Fyne a state was made of the said Maner to my husband and to me, terme of our lives; the remaynder thereof unto the said Thomas Littleton and Jane his wife, and to the heires of the said Thomas Littleton for evermore, as in the sayd Fine more plainly appeareth. Afore which Fyne rered, I did ask of Sir John Prisot, the Chefe Justice of the Common place, and divers others, to whom I had special confidence and trust; and also of other divers Apprentices lerned in the Lawe, of my Councell; wheder that my seid husband and I, might sille the reversion of the said Maner without perell of our Soules: and they desired me to enfourme and shew them how the seid Maner afore that tyme was entayled: and I shewed them the part of an hole Fyne, whereof the tenor sheweth in these words. [1326. A.D.]

“Hœc est finalis concordia facta in Curia domini Regis apud Westmonasterium, a die S. Trinitatis in xv dies, anno regni Regis Edwardi, filii Regis Edwardi, decimo nono, coram Willielmo de Bereford, Johanne de Mutford, Willielmo de Herle, Johanne de Stonare et Johanne de Busse Justiciariis, et aliis domini Regis fidelibus, tunc ibi presentibus; inter Galfridum de Wasteneys de Tyxhall quærentem et Rogerum de Aston personam Ecclesiæ de Weston, deforciantem, de Manerio de Tyxhall, cum pertinentiis, et advocatione Ecclesiæ ejusdem Manerii, unde placi-

tum conventionis summonitum fuit inter eos in eadem curia; scilicet quod prædictus Galfridus recognovit prædicta maneria, cum pertinentiis et advocationem prædictam esse jus ipsius Rogeri; ut illa quæ idem Rogerus habet de dono prædicti Galfridi: et pro hac recognitione fine et concordia idem Rogerus concessit prædicto Galfrido prædictum manerium cum pertinentiis et advocationem prædictam et illa ei reddidit in eadem curia, Habenda et tenenda eidem Galfrido de capitalibus dominis feodi illius, per servicia quæ ad prædictum manerium et advocationem pertinent, tota vita ipsius Galfridi; et post decessum ipsius Galfridi (&c.) remanere Maculino filio ejusdem Galfridi et Margaretæ uxori ejus, et hæredibus de corporibus ipsorum Maculini et Margaretæ exeuntibus; tenenda (&c.) remanere Johanni fratri ejusdem Maculini et hæredibus de corpore suo procreatis; tenenda (&c.) remanere Henrico fratri ejusdem Johannis et hæredibus de corpore suo procreatis (&c.) remanere Willielmo fratri ejusdem Henrici et hæredibus de corpore (&c.) remanere rectis hæredibus ipsius Galfridi; tenenda (&c.) in perpetuum."

And they asked me of whom and how that I came of any such persons named in the seyde Fine: and I seyde; that I came of Makelyn Wastneys and Margaret his wiff named in the seyde Fine; that is to say that I am daughter to Roger, sonne to William, son to the seyde Maculine and Margaret. They examined me, wheder any of the Brethren of the said Maculine, that is to sey, John, Henry, or

William had any issue on lyve: and I seyde to them may, But all ben ded without issu, which is very trouthe. They asked me whider I was heire to Geffrey Wastneys named in the seyde Fine; and I seyde I am heire to the seyde Geffrey; for he was my graunsire's graunsire. They asked me whether there was eny more issue now on lyve, that come of the said Maculine and Margaret: and I said nay: for I seyde, if Alianoure Harecourt, which was myn Aunte, that is to sey my Fadur's sister, had bin on lyve, and oberleved me, she shulde enherite the seid livelode by force of the seid taill made to Makelyn and Margaret, after me: but now she is ded without issue, there is no more issue now on lyve that come of the said Makelyn and Margaret sauf only I, in as much as I was the last of the entail, and the fee simple thereof was in me: whereupon my husband and I rered a Fyne in the fourme as I have seyde. And whereas Sir John Gresley Kt. seythe, as I am enfourmed, that he should be my next kyn to enherite after me the said Livelode; betwene God and me I sey, as I shall answer afore the day of Dome, I canne not, nor never coulde wete or knowe, nor never herde by my Fadur, nor other in noe manner wyse; how or in what wyse he shoulde be kyn to me, to inherite in any wise the seid Livelode; save that it was seid, that he come of oon Sir Thomas Wastnesse, which Wastnesse was longe tyme afore the seyde old Fyne a rered: but how, or in what wyse I was kyn to that Wastnesse I coud never here tell. And furthermore I sey and

affirme, that there is none on lyve that I know or can here of, that is or may be enheritable by any manner of fee tayle specified or comprised in the seid old Fyne reryd in the time of the seid King Edward the second: In witness whereof to this present writinge I have put my seall." (1469 A.D.)

There remain three other offshoots of this Tixall line to be accounted for. John de Wastineys, second son of Geoffrey, and younger brother of Maculine, had removed into Cheshire, and left a son William married to Cicely de Arderne (*vide* Ormerod). The Recognizance rolls for the Palatinate mention his name frequently. In A.D. 1309 he was Equitator\* of the forests of Mara (Delamere) and Mondrem; two years afterwards he was Lord of Elton, and gave recognizance for 8 marks to Sir Robert de Holand. One third of Elton Manor he had held previously to his marriage, and by that he acquired the remainder for a nominal rent of one rose yearly (Chester Records, 4 Ed. 2). His wife survived him, and being at feud with Peter de Thornton—probably on some boundary question (Ormerod)—made over the Elton property (30 Ed. 3, Plea Rolls) to Sir John de Arderne, in order to secure his support against Thornton. Her son William married a lady named Katherine, and in A.D. 1341 vested Elton Manor, subject to his mother Cicely's life interest, in trust for his daughter Agnes, wife of William de

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\* Riding forester, whose chief duty was to attend and ride before the king when he went into the forest. This office was worth £500 a year in the New Forest.



Bradburne. In 1349 we find a general pardon was granted him. In 1354, together with Thomas de Venables, he gave recognizance for £20, and also to Thomas de Arderne for £1000. There can be little doubt that he died in A.D. 1356, for in the following year Katherine, his wife, gave recognizance for a meadow at Elton Mosse, late her husband's property; whilst in 1358 Edward the Black Prince granted to Richard Sutton, yeoman of the king, the lands of William de Wasteneys, with the marriage of John de Wasteneys, his infant son and heir, to hold the said land free of all charges on account of the forest of Delamere. John died an infant; and on the death of Agnes, in 1411, all the Elton property reverted to William, son of Maculine and Lord of Tixall, who was served heir, as already noticed.

We have to recur now to Ralph de Wasteneys of Tixall, whom we believe to have been the brother of Henry of Tixall, and uncle therefore of Geoffrey. He, too, acquired property in Cheshire by marrying Beatrice, the younger of the two daughters and co-heiresses of William de Venables. The Feet of Fines (1272 A.D.) shew Ralph and Beatrice resigning to Simon de Acton, for 27 marcs, their claim on four virgates of land in Acton, Simon having been called to warrant them to Adam de Parco, and Cecilia his wife, and William de Englefeud and Alice his wife. (vol. 4, S. H. C., p. 257.)

Supposing this to be the identical Acton on which Alice, wife of Wm. de Wasteneys (1) had claims, and for which Sir Philip sued John, son of Stephen

de Acton (temp. King John), it is difficult to understand what claim Ralph Wasteney's could make upon it in right of his wife. I should conclude rather that it is another Acton altogether, but more evidence is required if the point is to be cleared up satisfactorily. The Pleas of 21. Ed. 3 prove Beatrice to have been previously married to Robert de Whyston, when she claimed dower in twelve acres at Little Sardon from Robert le Champiown. In 1272 Ralph le Wasteney's, of Tykeshall, was sent to prison for hunting and taking a hind and fawn from Kinver Forest (Staffs. Hist. Coll., v. 5, p. 158).

About A.D. 1280 Ralph witnesses a deed of Archbishop John (Peckham) of Canterbury, in company with Nicholas Baron Stafford and William Bagot. In 1289 he sat on the inquisition made at Stafford into the lands of John de Eyton, deceased. In 1293 Raufe de Wasteney's de Tixall and Beatrice, his wife, gave Winsham Manor to their son Payne (named after his grandfather) and to Margaret, his wife, daughter of Alexander de Baumvyle, for a yearly rent of six marks, to be paid during the lives of Ralph and Beatrice. In 1307 A.D. Ralph's name is found among the witnesses to a deed which Henry Coleman signed at Tixhall, as also to the undated grant of Robert Lord of Hanengate, before referred to (Ingestre deeds). Like his father, Payne de Wasteney's seems to have kept up his connection with the Eytons, if we are right in supposing he is the Payne de Wasteney's referred to in 1326, when a special commission was issued to Geoffrey le Scrop,

John de Stonare and others, to inquire into unlawful assemblies of armed men and homicides in Staffordshire. The cause being tried at Tamworth, the jury reported that owing to a quarrel which had arisen between Thomas de Brumpton on the one part, and William de Ipstanes on the other, respecting the church of Eyton, either side had congregated a number of armed men, and that Thomas de Brumpton had collected Sir William de Stafford, Kt., James de Stafford and John his brother, James son of Roger Trumwine and Roger his brother, Roger de Chetwynd and others, in all about eighty men, who rode armed about the country to the terror of the people and disturbance of the King's peace. That William de Ipstanes on his side maintained John de Ipstanes, Kt., William de Chetelton, Henry de Creswell and others, to the number of at least forty men, armed on foot and horseback—and that Thomas de Brumpton and his party, together with Roger de Gresleye, Robt. Beaumis (Baumvyle?), Richard de Venables, Richard de Aston, Robt. de Aston, John de Verdon, Hugh son of Hugh de Wastineys, and Pagan de Wastineys held the church of Eyton by force, by the maintenance of Sir Wm. de Stafford, Kt., and of Isabel, lady of Ingestre. Those named are therefore ordered to be arrested by the sheriff. This extract is curious enough, as showing the confusion and lawlessness produced by the weak rule of the second Edward. Payne de Wastineys had given recognisance in 1307 for £6 16s. 4d., to William de

Doncaster, and again in 1311 for £5 5s. to Richard Russell, citizen of Chester. By Margaret de Baumvyle he left two sons, of whom the younger, Alexander de Wasteneys, married Alice, and had a son Hugh. John de Wasteneys, the elder brother, succeeded to Winsham, and died in 1335, leaving three daughters only—(1) Margaret, who was of age at the time of her father's death, and obtained a writ from Edward the Black Prince to the Chamberlain of Chester to give her livery of her share in Winsham; (2) Ellen died unmarried; (3) Alice, the remaining sister, became the wife of Robert Cholmondeley. In 1373 Margaret and her husband, John de Leigh, with Alice and her husband, R. de Cholmondeley, brought an action against their cousin Hugh for 30 acres of land and six acres of meadow in Winsham, which Hugh had apparently claimed as heir male to his uncle, John de Wasteneys. Margaret subsequently married Gerald Massey, on the death of John de Leigh. It is to be observed that this family of De Wasteneys, though expressly called "of Tyxall," bore different arms—viz., a cross patonce voided by a plain cross (*vide* the seal of Ralph de Wasteneys).

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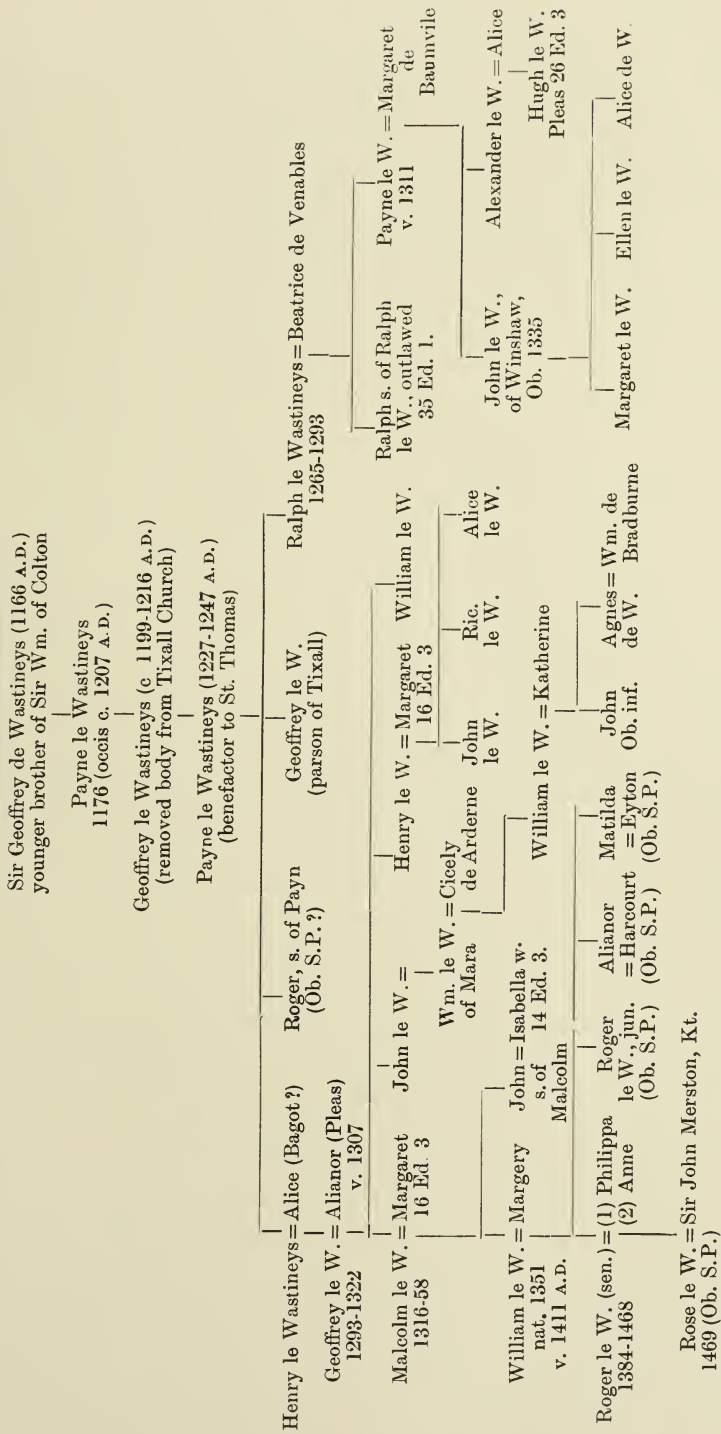
#### DEEDS RELATING TO THE DE WASTENEYS OF TIXALL.

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1396 A.D.

Sciant presentes et futuri quod nos Ricardus Ffyssher capellanus et Thomas Mallery dedimus

DE WASTINEYS OF TIXALL, BRONCOTE, HANYARD, &c.







concessimus et hac presenti carta nostra indentata in quatuor partibus divisa — confirmavimus Rogero Wasteneys seniori et Phillipe uxori sue manerium nostrum de Tyxhale, cum advocat' lib' capelle dicte ville de Tyxhall, et etiam omnia alia terras tene-ment' redditus et reversiones cum omnibus pertin'suis quæ habuimus de dono et feoffmento dicti Rogeri per cartam suam inde nobis confect'. The deed then goes on to provide that if Roger died without heirs male, the Tixall Manor, advowson, &c., should pass to his sister Matilda de Eyton—and failing heirs male of hers, then to Roger Wasteneys junior, brother of the aforesaid Roger Wasteneys senior, and the heirs male of his body lawfully begotten, and failing them—should then revert to the right heirs of Roger the elder for ever—Datum apud Tyxhalle anno regni regis Ricardi secundi post conquestum decimo nono His testibus, Johne le Strange et Johne Bagot militibus, Johne Wyard, Thome Erdeswicke, Johne Bailey de Handesacre, et aliis.

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A.D. 1399.

Omnibus Xti. fidelibus ad quos hoc presens scriptum indentatum pervenit Rogerus de Wasteneys de Tyxhall sal' in domino sempiternam, noveritis me dedisse, concessisse et hoc presenti scripto meo indentato confirmasse Ricardo Say omnia terras, tennment' mea, redditus, reditus et servicia ward' et maritag' et eschet' cum omnibus aliis pertin', que habeo in villis et in campis de Admeston et Steven-

ton et Colton et quemdam annualem' reddit' viginti duorum solid' quos percipere solebam de Johne Clerk de Colton de omnibus terris que quondam fuerunt Henrici Colmon de Colton pro bono servicio. quod idem Ricardus mihi impendit et in posterum impendet Habend' et tenend' ad totum terminum vitæ ipsius Ricardi; Reddend' inde annuatim mihi et heredibus meis unam rubram rosam ad festum nat' Sancti Johis Baptist' si petatur, et post decessum ipsius Ricardi Say omnia p' dicta mihi præfato Rogero Wasteneys et hered' meis revertentur, et integre remanebunt in perpetuum. His testibus Johne Bailey de Handsacre, Johne Bird, Wmo. Clerk de Tyxhall et aliis—Datum in fest' Sancti Edwardi Regis, anno regni Regis, Henrici quarti primo

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1307 A.D. (LATIN.)

A Bond from Henry called Colman of Colton for 22 silver shillings of yearly rent, to be paid at Lady Day and Mems. to Geoffrey de Wasteneys, Lord of Tyxhall, secured on Henry Colman's lands in Colton\* and elsewhere, sealed by him and witnessed by Domo. William de Stafford, Dom. Wmo. Tromwine (?) (erased), Dom. Richard de Bissepeston, rector of the church of Tyxhall, Ralph de Wasteneys, Robert de Hampton,\* John de Pikestoke, John de Cressewalle, and others. Given at Tyxhall on Sunday before the feast of All Saints, in the first year of King Edward, son of Edward, and year of grace meccvii.

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\* v. supra, page 108.

1461 A.D. (LATIN).

This indenture, made between John Merston, Kt., and Rose his wife on the one part, and William Wore, Clerk, Rotfern Walle Clerk, Wm. Comberford, Christopher Goldsmyth, and Richard Poore on the other part, witnesseth—"That Sir John Merston and Rose his wife, by these presents, have confirmed to the aforesaid persons the Manor of Tyxhall, and all the property belonging to it, for payment of £24 annually for the life of Sir John and Rose, the money to be paid at the church of the Preaching Friars in London, to them or their attorney. Done last day of Septbr. 1, Ed. 4."

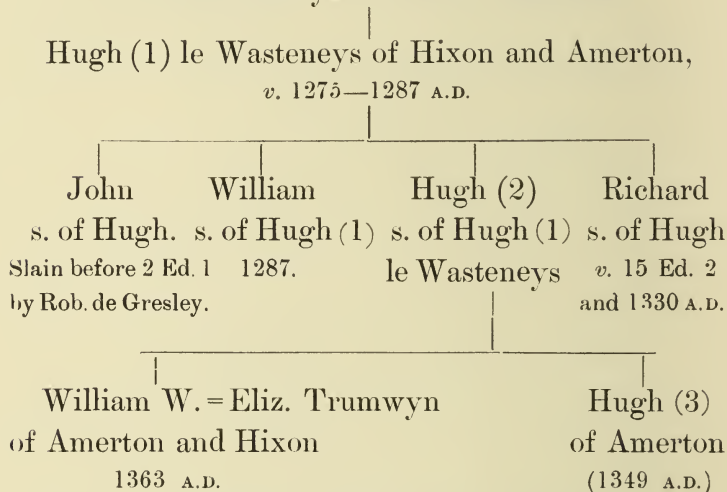
[This deed has no seal.]

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The Burton Abbey chartulary (S. H. Coll., vol. 5, p. 1) records a charge brought by Hugh Wastneis, son of Ysult of Ammertun, near Hixon and Gayton, in 1275 A.D., for two bovates and four acres of land at Abbot's Bromley; which his mother had held by charter under the seal of Abbot William. After various delays the Abbot made peace for two marks with Hugh, who surrendered the charter. The same Hugh Wastneis joined apparently with William le Wasteneys in a grant of land to Ralph de Hampton. He had a son William who acquired land in Hixon from Geoffrey de Gresley; and evidently another son, named Hugh after his father, who occurs in the Plea rolls of 19 Ed. 2. (S. H. Coll.) In 1287 A.D. Alianor Ferrars sued Hugh le Wasteneys, with John

and William his sons, for beating her men, and damaging her trees at Chartley and Hixon—while in 21 Ed. 1 (1293 A.D.) Robert, son of Geoffrey de Gresley was indicted for the homicide of John son of Hugh le Wasteney of Hixon. We meet with another son, Richard, in 15 Ed. 2, summoned as a witness to a Hixon charter. The pedigree of this Amerton and Hixon branch of the family runs thus:—

— le Wasteney = Ysult de Amerton.



Two grandchildren of Hugh (1), and perhaps the sons of Hugh (2), (but this is not certain) were the William de Wasteney of Amerton, named in the Pleas of 1363 A.D. (36 Ed. 3) S. H. Coll., and Hugh (3) of Amerton, who occurs in 1349 A.D., and subsequently had letters of protection while serving in Brittany under the Duke of Lancaster (1356 A.D.)

The former of these, William de Wasteney of Amerton, is frequently named between 36 and 50 Ed. 3; one entry, for which I am again indebted to

Genrl. Wrottesley, mentions William Wasteneys and Elizabeth his wife, as tenants for life of a place called "*la Moss*" (in Hixon) which Roger Trumwyn deceased held of William Trumwyn deceased; which was held of the king in capite. William died under age while in ward to the king; Wm. Wasteneys and Elizabeth pay 2s. for their relief. Elizabeth was probably the daughter and heiress of Roger. Michael Wastness, and Thomas his brother, who were associates of Wm. Gresley and others, in injuring the property of William Bromshulf, described in the Pleas of 49 and 50 Ed. 3 (S. H. Coll.) *may* have been brothers of William and Hugh of Amerton. The Pagan, or Payne de Wastneys of 19 Ed. 2, named immediately after Hugh, son of Hugh de Wastneys, was probably another of the same branch—all of them an offshoot of the Tixall line.—Whether the moat still visible at Hixon marks the site of their dwelling, or that of the le Blunds, must remain an open question.

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### **De Wasteneys of Hedon, Todwick, &c.**

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The borders of Nottinghamshire and Yorkshire became the home of a branch of the de Wasteneys destined to survive long after the rest were extinct,

and only to expire in the last century. Its founder, Sir Edmond de Wasteneys, was a younger son of the main (or Colton) line, and, to judge from what we know of his history, fairly entitled to rank with the most enterprising and successful of his family.

We first meet with him in the year 1295 A.D., when he witnessed a Colton deed, with John de Wasteneys, whom we believe to have been his elder brother; the same year he had letters of protection while absent in Wales under the banner of Nicholas de Alditheleye (Audley). Edmond was certainly a distinguished soldier; we have proof of the value of his services four years later, when Nicholas de Audley accuses him of failing to keep the engagement he had made to form one of his retinue in France. Possibly the fact that John de Wastineys was in the company of John de Warren Earl of Surrey, may account for Sir Edmund's desertion of the Audleys (*v. S. H. Coll.*, vol. 8). Sir Edmund was present at the siege of Stirling; and continued to serve in Scotland under Sir Robert de Clifford for some time. The records (preserved in the Exchequer, and edited by Sir F. Palgrave) prove him to have been with the king at Dunfermline (vol. 1, p. 265). Six years afterwards he was performing military service due from Piers Gaveston, Earl of Cornwall, when the muster was at Tweedmouth, for the king having invaded Scotland in September wintered at Berwick, where he was joined by his favourite Gaveston. But in A.D. 1311 Sir Edmond was again at Colton, and assisted William de Wasteneys, his



nephew, in attesting a deed of Anselm le Mareschal's. He appears to have had great influence with Sir William, for even so important a matter as the wardship of Thomas de Wasteneys. The eldest son and heir was disposed of by his advice. In A.D. 1314 Sir Edmond was again summoned to Newcastle-on-Tyne for a projected invasion of Scotland. In 1316 he is certified to be lord of the township of South Denchworth, in Berkshire, though how this came about we are unable to say, whilst he was owner of the manors of Thorn Gumbald, Brampton-on-le-Morthen, and Todwick, in Yorkshire. This last he had acquired by purchase from Sir John Horbury in 1300; and besides holding the advowson there, he obtained a charter of free warren from the king. From 1319 to 1325 he served frequently as a Commissioner of Array for the West Riding, receiving in 1321, a pardon for any felonies he might have committed when serving under Sir Hugh de Audeley in pursuit of the De Spencers.

In 1324 he was summoned to attend Parliament at Westminster. The unfortunate Edward II. was murdered three years after; and it is well worthy of notice 'that when the Monasteries of Bristol and Malmesbury, from a cowardly fear of offending Isabel and Mortimer, had refused to receive the body of the king, and Abbot Thokey, mindful of past kindness, caused the corpse to be conveyed to Gloucester for interment,'—on that occasion Sir Edmond de Wasteneys was one of those who received pay for guarding the body from Berkeley Castle to

its last resting-place (*vide* Hugh Glanville's Roll and *Archæological Journal*, Vol XVII., p. 307). The Nottinghamshire estate at Hedon was acquired by Sir Edmond in A.D. 1330, a fine having been levied between him and Simon Joyce of the manor and advowson, by which it was settled on Sir Edmond and his heirs after the death of Lawrence de Chaworth, who then held it\*; whilst by a second fine, between Simon de Joyce, of Wymondeswould, and Marriot his wife, and Sir Edmond de Wasteneys, the premises were settled on Simon and Marriot for their lives, and after their decease on Robert, son of Sir Edmond and the heirs of his body, with remainder to William, Thomas, and Edmond, brothers of the said Robert, and their heirs, successively, remainder to the said Sir Edmond and his heirs for ever. This may possibly imply some connection by a second marriage between Simon Joyce and Sir Edmond de Wastineys; which would account for the otherwise somewhat marked omission of the eldest son Har-dolph in the entail. Subsequently Hedon became the chief residence of the family, although we know that they had a manor house at Todwick, if not at Brampton, and other possessions of Sir Edmond's, including one knight's fee in Treeton and Ulley; besides a fee mentioned in Kirby's Inquisition (one of the Exchequer records), held under Thomas de Furnivalle—though that entry refers, I think, to

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\* Lawrence de Chaworth and Agnes his wife, as the York Cathedral registers prove, received land at Hedon from Nicholas de Hedon in 1310 A.D.

part of the estate already mentioned. In company with his eldest son, Sir Hardolph, he attests a deed respecting "Morthen" 1331 A.D.—and in the Archbishop's registers at York is styled "Lord of Hedon," about the same time. Two years later he presented a rector to Todwick Church, which we believe to have been one of the last acts of his long and successful career.\* After his death, a chantry was founded in Todwick Church, to pray for the soul of Sir Edmond de Wastineys, and endowed for that object with lands in Wales, which were valued in Henry VIIIth's time at £4 4s. Sir Edmond bore the usual arms of De Wasteneys of Colton, but with the lion double queued for difference.

If we may accept as correct the somewhat particular account given in the Herald's Visitations (Harl MS. B. M.), Sir Hardolph de Wasteneys, by his first wife Sibil, had two children—Thomas, who died an infant, and a daughter Jane. Isabel, daughter of Lexborne, his second wife is said to have brought him no family. In 7 Ed. III. (1334 A.D.) Sir Hardolph was present at the Dunstable tournament, his arms being thus given in the Collectan. Topogra. (Vol. IV. p. 395): "Mons. Ardolph de Wasteneys' de Sable, ove un lyon rampant d'argent, ove la queue fourché." Also the same year 1334 A.D. Hardolph Wastineys and Roger Curzoun were chosen to array 5 hobelars, and twenty ardiars in the

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\* The Edmond de Wastineys, who took out letters of protection while serving in Scotland, 1334 A.D., must, we conceive, have been Sir Edmond's youngest son above-named.

wapentak of Strafford, in the West Riding (Vol. 8, S.H.C). A deed among the Dodsworth MSS. (Bodleian), dated 1343 A.D., states in relation to land at Bubwirth “que Hardulphus de Wastineys miles, et Sibilla uxor ejus, tenuerunt in dote uxoris Sibille de hereditate Thome de Beghlay” (16 Ed.3). Two years afterwards (9 Ed. III.) he was summoned to attend a meeting in the West Riding of Yorkshire (1336 A.D.). The remaining acts of his life, with the date of his death, are alike unknown to us, and our first reliable information concerns the presentation of a rector to Todwick Church by Robert de Wasteney in 1350 A.D.

The year following 1351 A.D., Robert, who is styled Lord of Hedon and Todwick, and Florence his wife, by fine with John de Kyneton, parson of Radecliff-on-Trent, and Gregory de Benerlase, parson of Hedon-in-the-Clay, settled the manor and advowson, with the advowson of the chantry of the B.V. Mary in Hedon Church, on Robert and Florence and their heirs male, failing Robert's male heirs; then to Edward his brother and his heirs—failing them, then to John, son of William Wastenays and his heirs male (and then to the next heirs general of Robert).

That Hedon remained in the hands of Florence is indisputable, for that very year, as Robert's widow, and mistress of Hedon-in-the-Clay, she presented Hardolph de Wasteney, clerk, described as “the son of Robert,” to Hedon Rectory (York registers). Hardolph was accepted by the Archbishop, John de

Thoresby, at Thorp, near York, Aug. 24, 1369. After holding it twelve months only, Hardulph resigned the living, and James de Kyneton was then presented by Florence.

It seems that John de Wasteneys, son of William, and nephew of Robert and Florence, had inherited the Todwick estate, judging from the following notice, to be found among the Lansdowne MSS.: "Ankerus Freshville dedit Johanni Wasteneys Domino de Todwick 100 marcas agenti cum filiâ sua Agnete in Maritagio Roberto filio et heredi prædicti Johannis Wasteneys."—42 Ed. 3 (1369). A suit between Robert, son of John Wasteneys, and Agnes his wife, against John Wasteneys of Todwick, his father, and Alice his wife, occurs about this date.

In 1370 A.D., Florence Wasteneys of Hedon-in-the-Clay, and Hardulph her son, with five others, are attached at the suit of Mary de St. Paul, Countess of Pembroke, for forcibly cutting her grass at East Drayton, and removing hay worth £20. They denied the trespass and injury, appealing to a jury; probably they had land here and were but exercising their legal rights. (S. H. Coll., vol. 13, p. 74.)

In 1375 and 1378, John de Wasteneys presented to the living of Todwick. In 1401 he witnesses a deed as Lord of Hedon; and on May 12 that year gave a rector to Hedon Church (York registers). In 1403, again presenting to the forenamed parish. His must have been a long life, extending at least to 70 years. Robert, the eldest son, who married Agnes de Freshville, took out letters of protection in



1383 A.D., when about to serve abroad in the retinue of the Bishop of Norwich (S. H. Coll.). He appears to have died in his father's lifetime; for the next patron of Todwick in 1416 A.D. was William Wasteneys.

The same year (3 H. 5) William Wasteneys of Hedon sued John Spynkhill, of Spynkhill, for taking his goods to the value 40s. from Synkhille.

We notice that Hunter's "South Yorkshire" makes William present again in 1443, whereas the Visitations speak of his death thirteen years before—*i.e.*, A.D. 1421 (8 Hen. 5)! If the Visitations are to be trusted, probably in this presentation, we should read John instead of William, because the York registers prove beyond a doubt that John de Wasteneys gave Hedon a rector Feb. 20, 1428. Moreover, in 1434, he is again returned as Lord of Hedon Manor. By Elizabeth Bussine his wife he left a son and heir, Robert, who married Elizabeth Nelson, daughter of Thomas Nelson, a merchant of the staple residing at York, probably a man of wealth. Robert de Wasteneys certainly presented to Todwick in 1475, and two years later was buried in that church. The stone still remains in the midst of the chancel floor, bearing his arms and this inscription: "Hic jacet Robertus Wasteneys armiger, qui obiit VIto die Januarii, A.D. 1477. Cujus animæ propitiatur Deus." George Wasteneys, Robert's eldest son, became—by Elizabeth his wife, daughter of Wm. Blythe—the father of two sons, the younger named Bartholomew, and the elder



George, who married Anne, daughter of Sir Richard Basset of Fledboro', and is no doubt the same who was patron of Todwick in 1506 A.D. Of his three children by Anne Basset, the daughter named Anne, after her mother, married William Dallison; Geoffrey, given in another pedigree as Wilfrid, Wasteneys was the 2nd son; the eldest, George, presented to Hedon in 1548, and had issue by his wife, Mary Melford, two sons and a daughter—Gervase, John, and Anne Wasteneys. Gervase, the heir, was living in 1575 A.D. He married Jane, daughter of Lyon Reresby of Yorkshire, and became the father of Sir Hardolph and of Daniel Wasteneys. A baronetcy was conferred on Sir Hardolph of Hedon, Decbr. 18, 1622, 20 James I. (*Vide* Dugdale's 'Antient Arms.') He was twice married—1st to Jane, daughter of John De la-bogs of Mister-ton, and 2ndly to another Jane, the child of Gervase Eyre of Knighton, Yorkshire. Sir Hardolph left behind him a family consisting of three sons and five daughters; the eldest, named after his father, was born in 1614. He succeeded to the baronetcy, and died, we believe, in 1649 A.D. John the second son, married an 'Ireland' of Lancashire, and by her had three sons, of whom Edmond, the eldest, was the next baronet. George, the third son, died for King Charles I. Of the daughters, Anne married John Raynes of East Drayton (Notts); Martha married Richard Tye of East Retford; and Jane became wife of John Kirke of Eaton; the two others, Rosamund and Mary, died unmarried. Sir

Hardolph's wife, Anne, daughter of Sir Thomas Chicheley of Wimpole, Cambridgeshire, had no children. Consequently Hedon and the title devolved, as already stated, on Edmund, their nephew. Sir Edmond Wasteney married Catherine, daughter and co-heiress of Colonel William Sandys of Askham, and had two children, Catherine, wife of Edward Hutchinson, and Sir Hardolph, who married Judith, daughter of Colonel Richard Johnson of Lincolnshire.

Sir Hardolph's death without issue, in 1742, put an end to this last great branch of the Wasteney family. The title, of course, became extinct, whilst the Hedon estates passed to his sister and her children.\*

Thus far then for the family of de Wasteney, whom we have endeavoured to trace in the lines of Colton and Tixall, with their respective Cheshire and Nottinghamshire offshoots.

Before dismissing the subject altogether, some few scattered names remain to be noticed, although we cannot now rightly determine their place in the pedigree.

Nichols, in his history of Leicestershire, mentions a grant—dated about King John's time—from

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\* NOTE.—Except for the York Registers, the Lansdowne and Dodsworth MSS. extracts, with one or two Plea roll notices, we have been unable to throw new light on the pedigree of the 'Hedon' line. It is much to be wished that the present representatives of the Hutchinsons would enquire into the subject more fully by the aid of their family papers.

William Wasteneys, described "as a son of Walter Wasteneys and Dina his wife." of a wood and meadow called "Snape," to Nicholas de Verdon, for the enlarging of his park at Belton. We are much tempted to suppose there must be a misprint here, and that William Wasteneys ought rather to have been styled "grandson of Dina and of Robert, son of Walter.' Were this suggestion only capable of proof, William's place in the pedigree would agree with all that has gone before.

In 1406 A.D., one Nicholas de Wasteneys, with Petronilla his wife, conveys to John de Colwych and others a messuage in Morton. A reference of much greater interest is made in 1450 A.D. to Richard Wastnesse, who is urgently summoned into France, together with Sir Henry Norbury, by King Henry V. Both these men appear to have been veteran soldiers, for a catalogue of Norman, French, and Gascon rolls, formerly in the Tower of London, bearing date January 10, 1435, that is to say, fifteen years before this urgent summons, contains an order to William Myners, captain of the town of Harefleur, John Cosyn, Viscount D'Arques, and John Chirwyn, lieutenant of Harfleur, to muster the archers and men-at-arms of the retinue of Sir Henry Norbury and Richard Wastnesse, Esqre.

Finally, in the following of John de Waterton, a celebrated captain of the time (1450 A.D.) occurs the name of one "John Wasteneys, malade a Harfler."

We should conjecture that both John and Richard were of the Nottinghamshire line.

Kennet "Parochial Antiquities," speaking of Sir John Cornwall, Kt., great grandson (?) of Richard Cornwall, who was the illegitimate son of Edmund Earl of Cornwall (28 Ed. I.), says that he married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir John Wasteneys.

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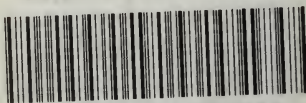








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